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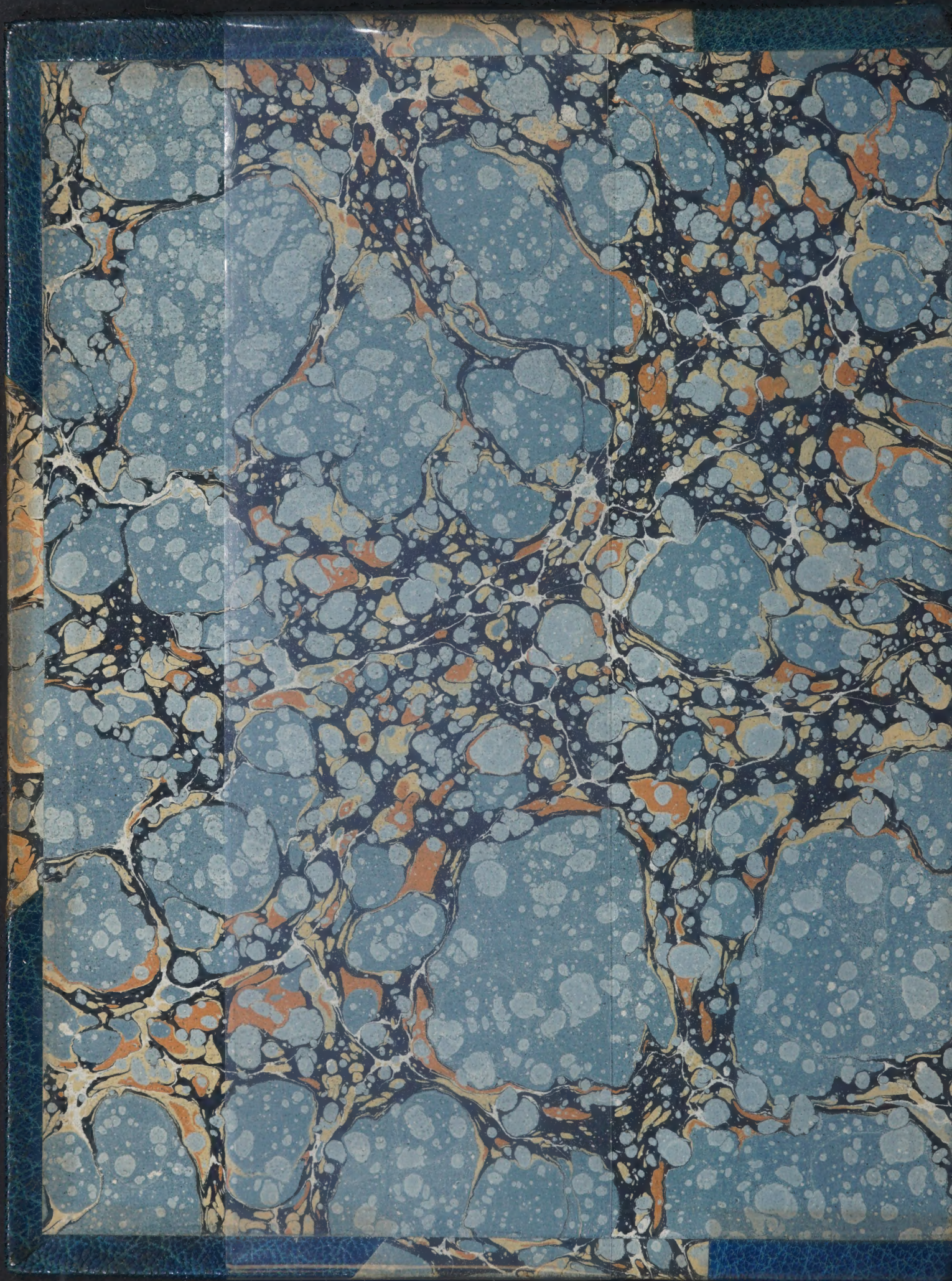
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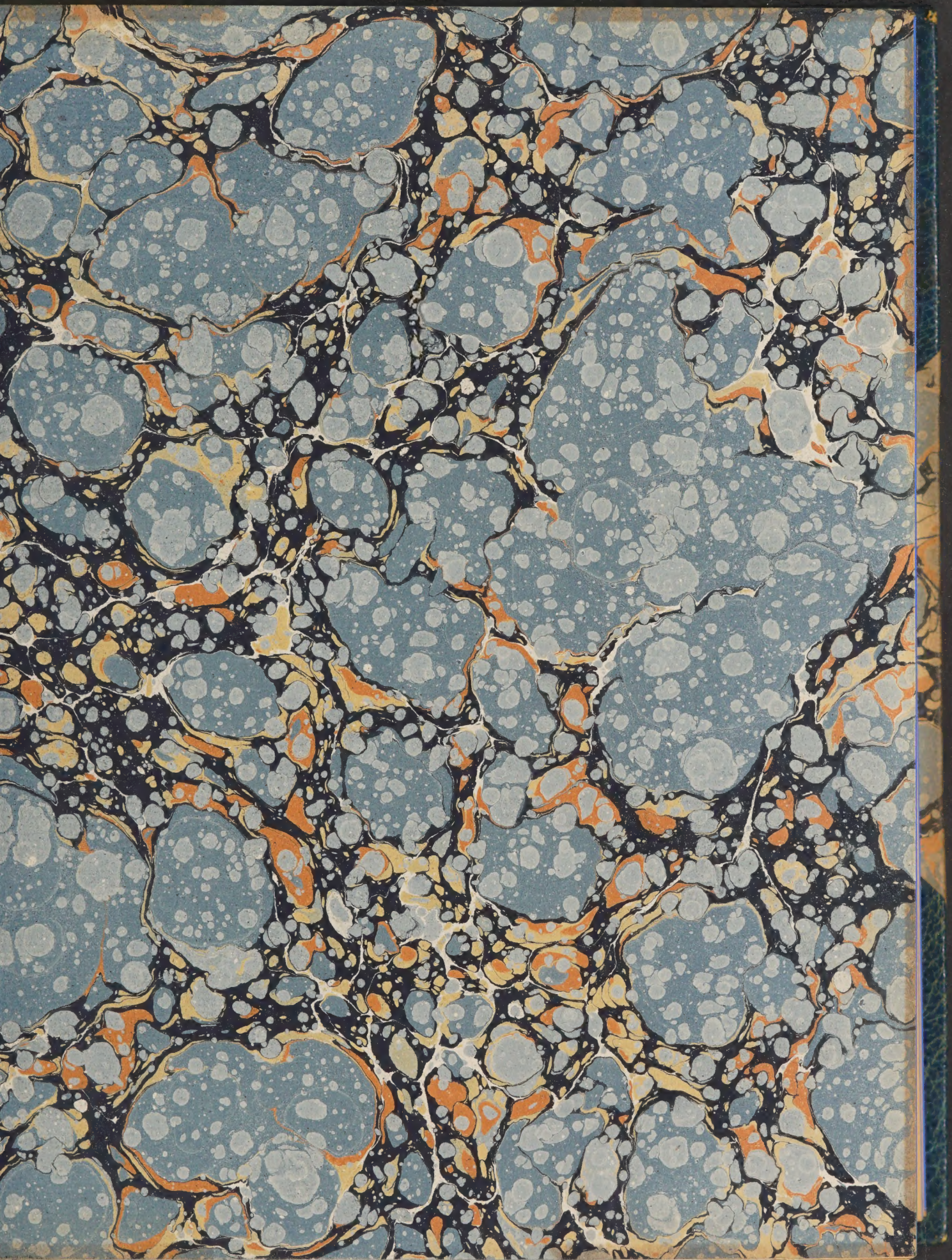
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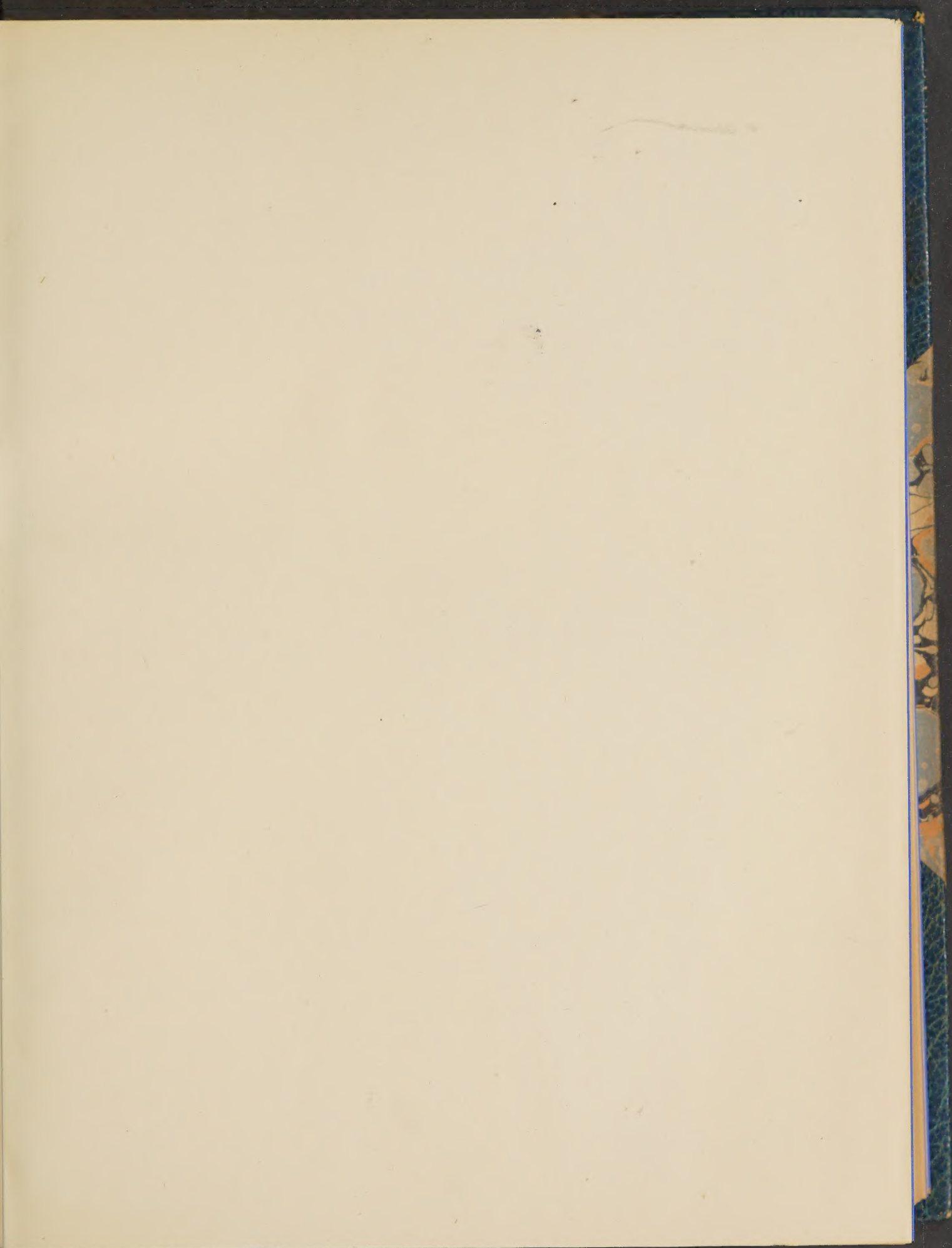


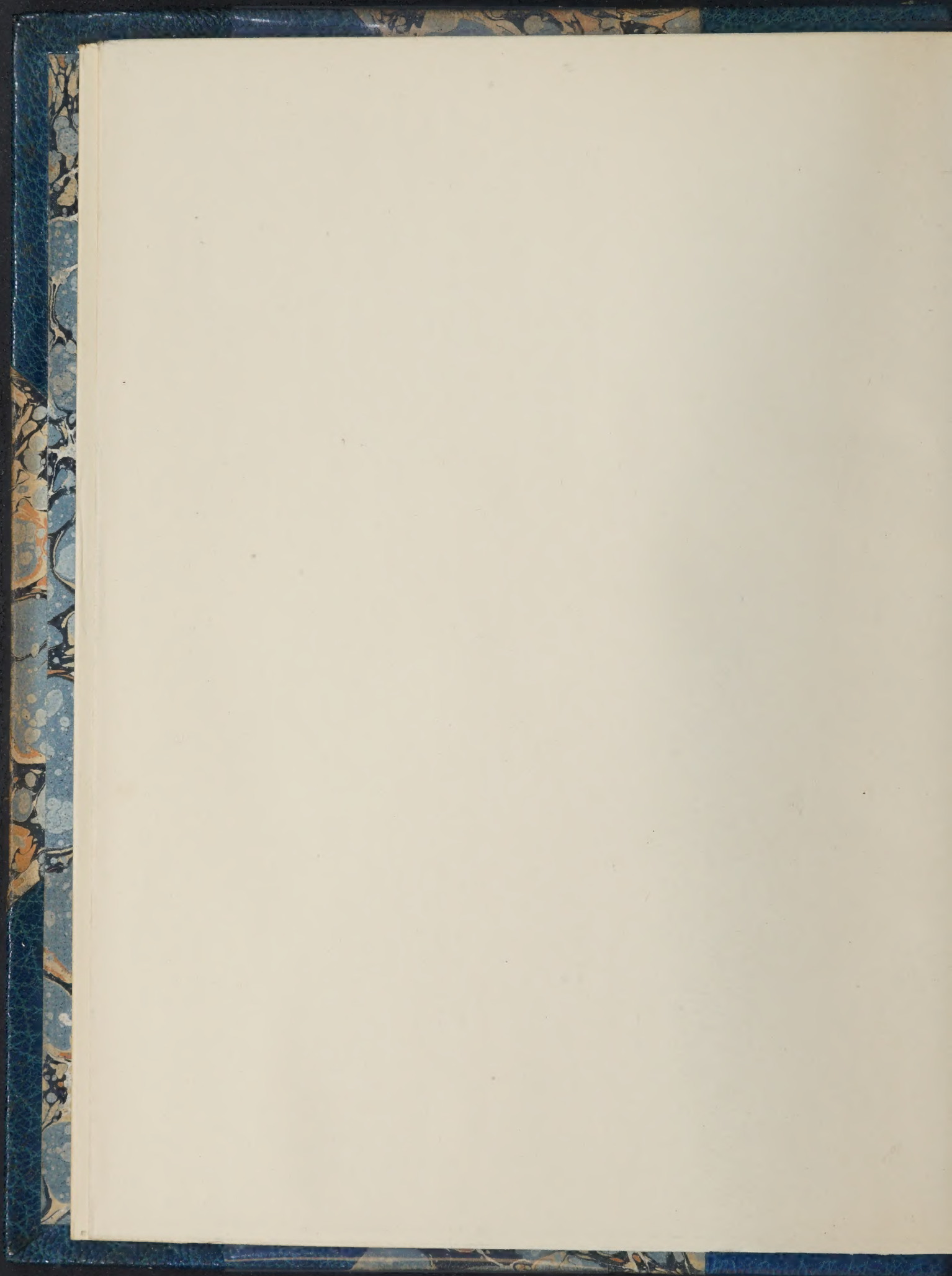










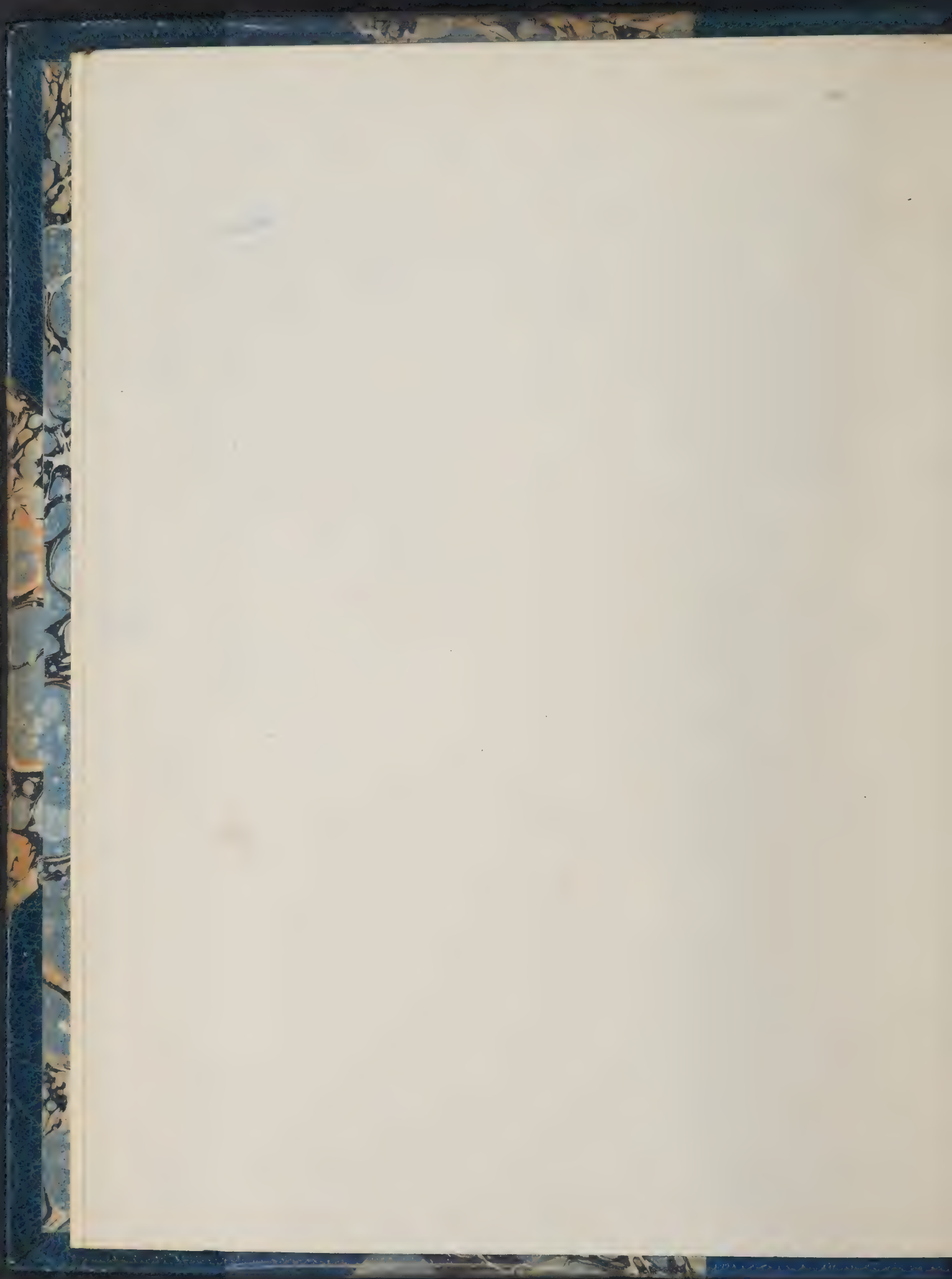


J. R. Russell Esq

Churchyardes Chippes.

1575.

PART I.



ILLUSTRATIONS
OF
Early English Poetry.

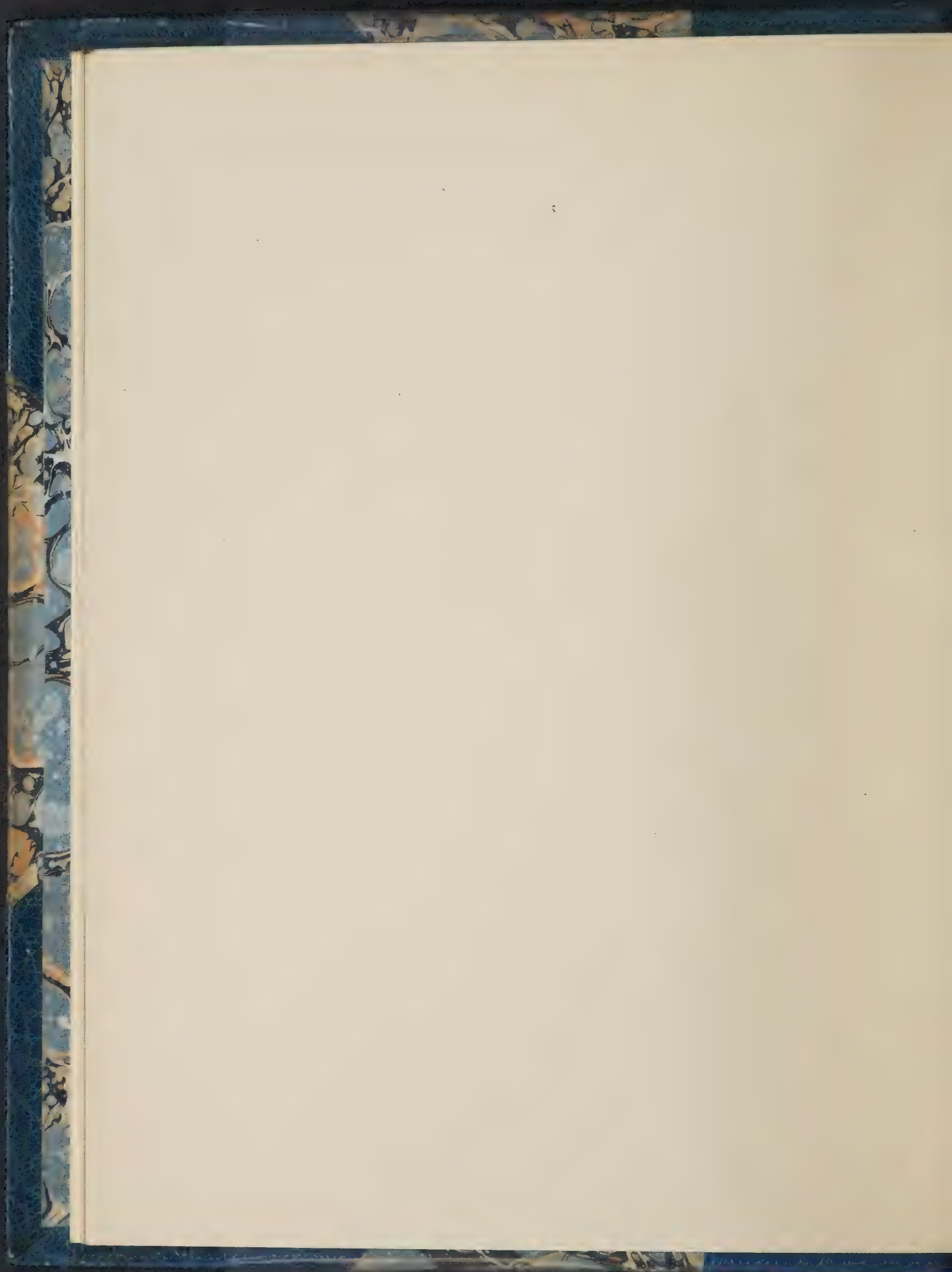
EDITED BY
J. PAYNE COLLIER.

VOL. II.



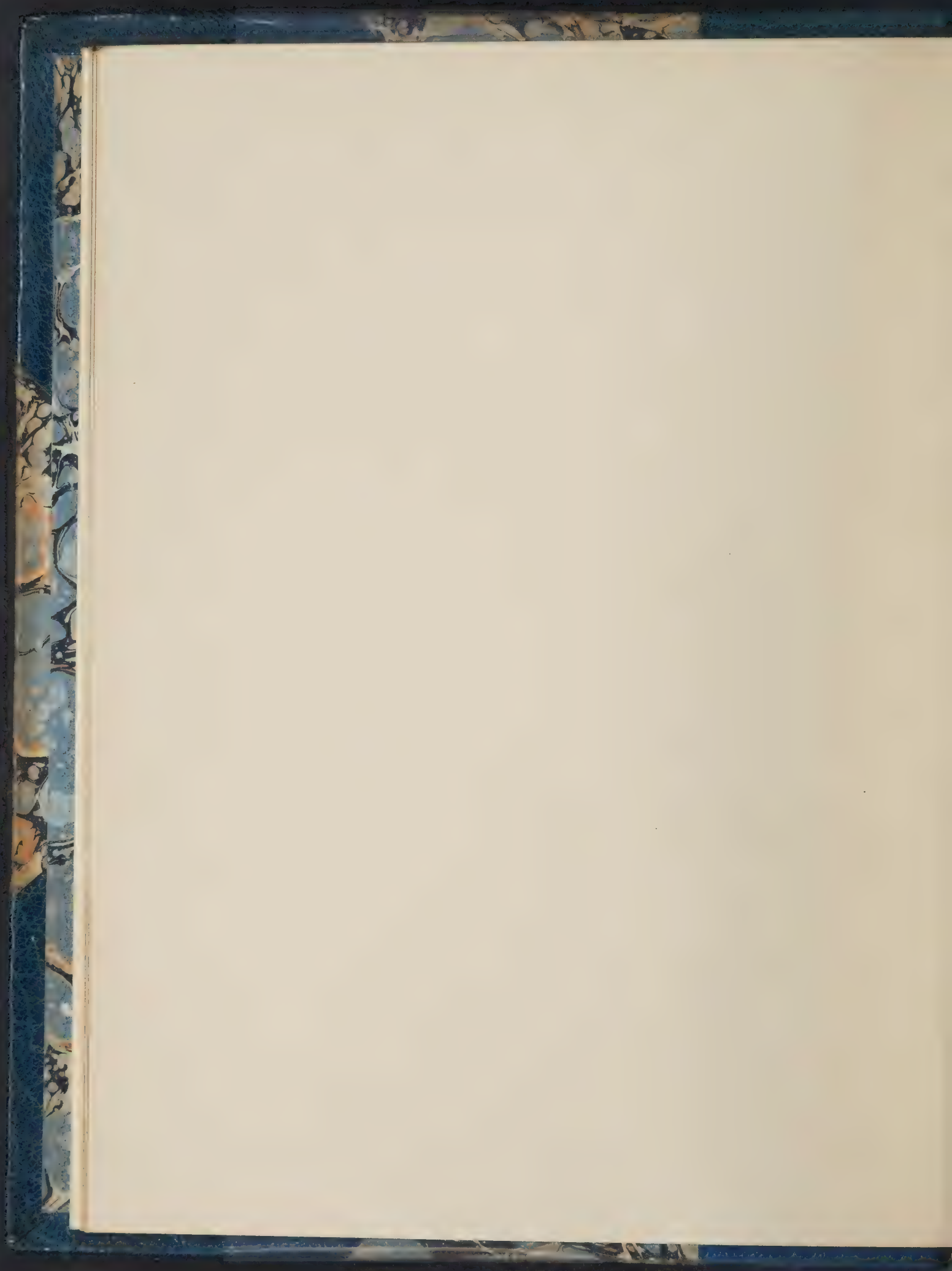
LONDON :
PRIVATELY PRINTED.

1866-70.



CONTENTS OF VOL. II.

1. CHURCHYARD'S CHIPPES. 1575.
2. WHETSTONE'S ROCK OF REGARD. 1576.



INTRODUCTION.

THE late George Chalmers having, in 1817, gone in considerable detail, and with much general accuracy, into the incidents of the life of Thomas Churchyard, from his birth about the year 1520, to his death in 1604, it is not necessary here to travel over the same ground; especially recollecting that not a few of the most important facts were derived from the work now in the hands of the reader, which the same biographer then in part republished. He derived his materials only from the second edition, while our reprint of the entire work is from the earliest impression; and, although they vary in many particulars, the leading features are the same in both.

“Churchyard’s Chips” is, to all intents and purposes, a Miscellany, although it consists only of his various and scattered productions, belonging to different years between about 1550, when the author began to write, and 1575, when they were collected in the form and sequence observed in the work before us. The author was not by any means a poet in the highest sense of the word; but in the beginning of his career he was certainly in greater estimation than near the close of it. Some of his pieces were considered good enough to be included by Tottell in the volume he put forth in 1557, the first edition of which has been already reprinted by us, and may possibly have been originally edited by Churchyard himself: we only put forward his claim to the discharge of that duty upon conjecture, but there are two or three points in his biography that render it not altogether unlikely. He was at that date about the Court, he had a strong rhyming propensity, he was acquainted with at least several

poets, who, like himself, certainly were contributors to that collection, and he was in want of money. Still, if Churchyard had really superintended the publication of so important and popular a volume, we hardly think it probable that he would not somewhere have asserted his right to the distinction.

He was not a man of imaginative powers: he deals mainly with facts, and narrates them more like a rhyming chronicler than as an inventive genius; and it is this circumstance that especially recommends him to our notice in what he called his "Chips": he was fond of these alliterative titles, and he has, therefore, left behind him his "Charge," "Chance," "Choice," and "Charity," some of which we hope hereafter to be able to present to the eyes of modern readers, because there is not one of them that does not contain matter, more or less interesting, as criticism, biography, or history; merely as poetry we cannot bestow much praise upon them, although Churchyard's "Shore's Wife" obtained the applause of Thomas Nash in 1596 for its antiquated, and then neglected author. "Shore's Wife," in its best form, we have already reprinted.

It is to be borne in mind, however, that Churchyard had the merit of being a very early admirer of Chaucer, whom he mentions; and one or two of the best productions in our present volume are creditable imitations of the Father of English Poetry. Churchyard was a soldier, not a scholar, and for this reason, probably, we are not much troubled in his works with tedious classical allusions. We might have entertained a higher opinion of him, if he had not adopted, almost from the first, a peculiar spelling, often annoying to modern eyes, and rather indicating (like the wearing of a peculiar hat or coat in our own day) the absence of more important claims to notice.

J. P. C.

THE FIRSTE
PARTE OF CHURCHYARDES

Chippes, containing

Twelue seuerall

Labours.

Devised and published, only

by THOMAS CHURCHYARD,

Gentilman.

*
* *

Imprinted at London
in Fleteftreate neare
vnto Saint Dunstones
Church by Thomas
Marthe.

1575.

Cum Priuilegio.

THE CONTENTES OF THIS BOOKE.

1. The siege of Leeth.
2. A farewell to the worlde.
3. A fayned fancie of the Spyder and the Gowte.
4. A dollfull discourse of a Lady and a Knight.
5. The Rode into Scotlande, by Sir William Druery,
knight.
6. Sir Symond Burleys tragedie.
7. A tragicall discourse of the unhappy mans life.
8. A discourse of vertue.
9. Churchyardes dreame.
10. A tale of a Fryer and a Shuemakers wief.
11. The siege of Edenborough Castle.
12. The whole order of the receiving of the Queenes Ma-
jestie into Bristowe.

TO THE RIGHT

worshipful his tried and worthy friend,

Maister Christofoꝛ Hatton, Esquier,

Captaine of the Queenes Majesties Garde,
and Gentleman of her highnesse
privie Chamber.

THE long liking and good wyll, with the fast frendship I finde in you (good maister Hatton), procures my penne presently to performe that I promised, no smal time since, touching a booke of al my English verses in miter. The offer wherof came from my selfe, not for the goodnes of the matter, but for the parfitnesse of the persone to whom I ment to dedicate my woorkes. And albeit your valeur may not bee seen in so simple a glas, yet I hope this my woorkes shall not hinder your deserved renown, nor breed occasion to mislike my unbridled boldnes. And for that from my head, hand and penne, can floe no farre fatched eloquence, nor sweete sprinklyng speaches (seasoned with spiced termes) I call my workes Churchyardes Chips, the badnes wherof can beguild no man with better opinion, than the substance it selfe doth import; and in deed if any other tittle had bene geven to my trifles than the proper name of Chips, men might have hoped for graver matter then the natuer of my verses can produce. Wherefor I prepared a title aunswerable to the weight of the worke, misdoubting not but that you will of cortesie behold what blaes of good wyll these my Chips will utter to the

worlde; assuring my selfe and my friendes, that herein is no kinde of sparke, neither hurtfull nor uncomly. But as the world may judge, among many chips may be sundrie woodes, so the worst of them all makes but a crack, consumes with the coales, and turneth unto finders. What fier can be made where neither smoek can be seen, nor hissing of stickes maye bee hard? And yet those two properties agree in the end to one flame, effect and purpose. I write of severall thinges, whose sondry foundations might leade me to divers subjectes, but each of them in deede serveth to one mans cogitation and duetifull dealing towards God and my countrey; and none of them hath any humour or disease, but sutch as evrybody may broke, digeste, and embrace (bearing any graine of favour to the wrytter) whiche I hope makes the reddier passage to that which I caused to be printed. My first booke hath but few things in it, but such varietie of matter as shall breed to the reader rather pleasure than painfulnes; and the second shall contain a number of things I trust of no lesse pastime and commodity, weighing mirrely the meaning of my imaginacions. Thus, making my choice of a sufficiente patroen for a farre better woorke than my cunning can performe, (and creping under the target of your protection) I weery you no further in reading of this my plain Epistle, committing to the Almighty your worship, good naem, and most desired felicitie, with increace of wished fortune.

Yours in all at commaundement,

THOMAS CHURCHYARD Gentleman.

TO THE DISPISERS OF OTHERS MENS WORKES.
that shoes nothing of their owne.

—o—

If well you judge of my good will,
you yelde me my defarts :
If that with frowns and scorneful looks,
you shoe your hollowe harts.

(And by disdaine disgrace his verfe,
that doth the best he can :)
You do not well to hinder foe
the works of any man.

For loke, what measure you doe meet,
the same yee shall receave,
When from the loem of your device,
like webb of cloeth you weave.

But if you leade an idle life,
and father near a childe,
You are as bad as barain ground,
and so the world begilde.

The loekar on of table playe
finds many faults in deede ;
(And with conceites of this and that,
he doth his fancie feede)

But bid him play a gaem himselfe,
 and than perhaps he will
 Mis some good pointe by over fight,
 and loes his money ftill.

A man that builds a prettie houle,
 in fweete and holfome ayre,
 (With goodly rowms and choife of place,
 and windoes large and fayre),

Shall heer his neighbour ftreight difpraves
 the feate and eek the fraem ;
 Yet hee that praets wants wealth and wit,
 and cannot mende the feam.

What needs more words to waeft my wind,
 about thefe bufie brains,
 That powlts and fwels at others toils,
 and take themfelves no pains ?

The beft is, though fmall goodnes be
 in thefe baer chipps of mien,
 My hatchet hewd them all in deede,
 whear they be groffe or fien.

And whan that theas have maed a blaes,
 and bin in world a whiel,
 A bigger baskete will I bring,
 to make you worldlings fmiel.

And wheather theas you like or noe,
the rest aer neer the stamp ;
Which if you pleas to flinge in fier,
will borne as cleer as lamp.

Thus faerwell frends, or flyring foes,
I kno not how to fawne :
I mean to fee you ons again,
fo leave my booke for pawne.

Adue.

THE SIEGE OF

Leeth, more aptlie called the fchole of warre,
(the Lord Gray of Wilton generall thereof) in the
second yeare of the raigne of oure sove-
raigne Lady Queene Elizabeth.
Anno 1560.

AS Marche did ende, so *Mars* began his raigne,
Whose men I saw to bluddy warres were bente :
From *Barwick* walls they marched throw the plaine,
With banner splaide, with carriage, haell and tente,
All fitte for warres : to *Leeth* this armye wente,
And, as I know, the nomber was so small,
Sixe thoufande and five hundreth men were all.

And most of those not trayned for the field,
More rawe then rype, unready, out of use ;
And some men say, ech leader was not skild :
But what of that ? I write not of abuse.
If faultes there were, I ought to make excuse :
First do wee creepe, and after learne to go ;
All hitts not white that shooteth in the bow.

Amonge these men were fouldiours of ech forte,
Both old and yonge ; what should there more be said ?
And some that fought to get a good report,
To haunt the warres did holde them well apaid :
Of cannon shotte they feldome stode afraid ;

They knew the cracke and horling in the eare
Was halfe the harme, and most of all the feare.

Such men declarde they had a det to pay,
And still they wisht in countries cause to die,
They prayfde that man that servde his prince a day,
They were a feare unto the enmyes eye ;
They beautified theyr bands with bravery :
They bare the blowes, and broughte the yonglings on,
And gave the charge when others lokt uppon.

As erste I said, this campe so furnisht out
Lord *Gray* the chiefe, Lord *Skrope* the marshall than :
Of knightes and squires if here I went about
To shew their names, as if I list I can,
Time should I loose, and weary many a man
To read their stiles ; wherefore your leave I crave,
To write such thinges as in my head I have.

The maner thus : before *Dumbar* they paste,
Where issued out the French, a silly bande
On horse and foote, and not requyring faste
To take, me thought, the skirmishing in hand :
And thus a while both parties still did stand,
Till cankred hate had kindled malice newe,
And badde our men in field their foes pursewe.

A skirmishe at
Dumbar.

But, in the ende, a few were hurt or flaine,
They driven in, and none that skirmishe would :
The campe marcht throw, and did no while remaine
Before *Dumbar* ; the troth thereof is tould :

The rest my penne shall soone to you unfould,
So that you do my tale in order marke,
And, as you ought, give credit to my warke.

At length, in fight of *Leeth* our army preast.
I had forgot how they the Scots lords met,
Who brought with them two thousand men at least,
Few more I gesse that were in order set,
But still in hope a greater power to get,
They put us in ; so thus wee joynde in on.
I may not longe this matter rest upon.

But as I said, when fight of *Leeth* we had,
Like as the bore his brissels ginnes to shake
When he is chafte, and fares as he were mad ;
Or as the wolfe that newly is awake
In fury runnes the fillie sheepe to take,
So did our men the French full fast pursue,
Where sone was seene the warres began a new.

They had no minde on peace proclaimde in Cheape,
The leage was brooke they thought in London made :
Out goes the pikes, the fouldiours ranne in heape,
The scabberds falls, and forth was drawn the blade.
Some shotes apace, the others chardge and lade ;
But ere the heate of this great skirmishe grew,
The *Dowager* with trumpet toke a trew.

This stage of warre made many men to muse :
How be it was devised of theyr queene,
Some say, by crafte our captaines to abuse,

And so it provde none other as I weene ;
For here and there the Frenchmen laye unfeene,
As though were ment no harme on either side,
As fire lyes hid untill the fmoke be spide.

Our campe came on, and fought their tents to pitch :
The Frenche drew neare to view our maner-throw ;
Whereat Lord *Gray* was discontented mitch,
And sent them word they should retyre them now :
Wherefore (qd they) we understand not how
Wee should give place, or any waye be bounde
To part from hence, and leave our maisters grounde.

Yees (qd my Lord), were not for promise fake
Of truse a while, we should not reason longe.
Full stoutly than the French in bravry spake,
Do what you dare, we will not take a wronge.
Wherewith in haste they fange us such a songe,
With curriar shotte that, had not hap bin good,
They had soone shed some of our worthift blood.

Under the
pretence of
peace, they
shotte in our
faces.

For as our chiefe, and leaders of the field,
In daunger stooode, under the league we had,
They usde such warres as have bin seen but field.
Full in our face they shotte as they were mad :
A tricke of Fraunce, a bluddy parte to bad ;
But as God woulde, the skath they did was smale ;
It was but one on whom the harme did fale.

One man
flaine at the
first.

Our rage was great, our bloudes began to rife,
Our stomackes storde as we did this beholde :

Throw out the campe the noyes ran to the skies,
 At brute whereof the coward waxed bold,
 The valiaunte man had courage dubble fold :
 So that a lowde, a chardge, a chardge! they cride.
 They taried not, and loked for a gide.

But as by chaunce each one his marrow mette ;
 They skirmished as thicke as bees they fwarme :
 Some losfe their lives, and paide the earth his dette,
 Some were fore hurt, and had no further harme.
 I you assure, this skirmishe was so warme,
 That as the haills commes downe like rainy teares,
 The curriar shotte did ringe about our eares.

If *Barwick* bands had absent bin that day,
 A presnt plague was like on us to light :
 Uppon our foes they ranne and ledde the way,
 And still they put the French perforce to flight.
 But yet I prayfe some other men of right
 That servd ful wel, whose names if I should show,
 Some here might say, the men we do not know.

All have not
 fame that do
 well.

A further cause hath staide my penne herein.
 All have not fame that worthy are therefore :
 Some gets great thanckes, that filde in warres hath bin,
 Some serve so longe, their names are cleane out wore ;
 Some have ill frends, ill hap, and that is more :
 So that their acts lie dead and litle worth,
 For that no man their deedes dare well fet forth.

I leave this case, and to my matter cumme.
That day was hot and hard for to indure ;
The shot was such there could no found of drumme
Be easily heard, the time I, you assure,
On both the sides they put theyr force in ure,
And if I shal not lye for favours fake,
The French that while servde well, I undertake.

Full wise and ware they were in all their wayes,
And valiauntly they did themselves defende.
But as I do their skill and manhode praise,
So here I must their boldnes discommende ;
For had wee seene what hapned in the ende,
Or knowen the ground, as reason did require,
Wee had full soone compeld them to retire.

Retire, good Lord ! so well it had not bin ;
They had bin slaine or taken every man :
But who can tell who shal the victry win
When men do meete ? no more we knew not than,
Untill in deede the heate of this began,
Where laye their rewen, where our good fortune was ;
For battailes are as brittle as the glas.

Now conquest seemes, than overthrowes appeares :
Now seemes it good that after proves starke nought :
Now is he free that hapneth in the breares ;
Now men devise, now all is out of thought :
Now much is spoke, and little thinges are wrought.
This is the course and custome of the warre,
Where wisedome bids no man to go to farre.

The foth to showe, if men before had knowen
 What vauntage great to us that day was due,
 Wee had in deede the Frenchmen overthrowen
 With little losse ; and yet I say to you
 It hapned well, as forth then matter grue :
 Our horfemen came and gave a charge ful well,
 In whom then laye the service every dell.

Sir Harry
 Knivet hurte
 manfully at
 the charge.

Their names that chardge I thincke unfit to wright ;
 Who serveth well at length must needs have fame :
 Let no man thincke their deedes are buryd quight,
 All though not here the perfons do I name ;
 I nill for that my worke put out of frame.
 To them I leave at large that to disclose,
 That after shall this journey wright in prose.

Right hot awhile the enmies shot enduerd,
 But sone was coold the terror of the fame :
 The horsemens force, in fine, the French procuerd
 For to retire, nay runne awaye with shame ;
 But yet I may not much their doinges blame :
 In order still their battel stoode, mee semde ;
 Five hundreth pykes they were, as we estemde.

Twelve men
 of good name
 flaine on the
 French side,
 and v. gen-
 tlemen taken
 prifoners.

But what should more be said ? they shronke aside,
 And to theyr towne they trotted as they might ;
 But every band had not with him his gyde,
 They bode the brunt, on them the bloes did light,
 And as I heard and sawe, there compted right,
 Twelve men of name were flaine, and prifners five
 Wee toke that day, and brought awaye alive.

Of common fort of fouldiours, good and bad,
Fnnl feven fkore of them we put to facke,
And fome fore hurt into their towne they lad :
Of ours in deede a very fewe did lacke.
Some hurt, fome flaine, our enmies put a backe,
And as in deede the maner is of fortes,
The towne, feeing this, againft them fhut their portes.

Wee hearde thearof whan all this broile was donne ;
But who could fay he faw the fame the while ?
Each man can talke whan that a thing is wonne,
And with conceites his fanfie oft beguile,
Runne throw the hedge, and after leape the ftile :
This fhould be done, our after witts can fay,
But few at firft findes out the ready way.

Well, let that paffe : we drew us to our refte,
And every man made mirth as caufe he founde.
This bickring duerd foure houres and more at left.
Men wilbe glad when trump retrait doth found,
That weary are in trave[r]fing the ground ;
So doubt I not it did both parties please,
When they had found a time to take their eafe.

In fhott of *Leeth*, within *Laftaricke* than
We pitchtte our campe, where cannons cabons brake,
And oft by chaunce it kild a horfe or man,
But no man would the campe therefore forfake :
Such tennis balles did keepe our men awake,

And quickned those that wear dull sprited foules,
And made some ladds to digge them deepe in holes.

To fave the warde from harme of enmies shot
Full many a trench did *Pellam* cause be wrought :
Loke, what was meete there was fewe things forgot.
Our powre so small, by every way we fought
To keepe the fame ; but that availed nought.
Some were so rude, they ranne their death to seeke ;
So thus decreast our number every weeke.

The byshop of
Valence.

A bishop came from Fraunce to treat a peace.
Muche talke there was which time consumed still,
But all this while the wars did nothing cease ;
To hurte our foes we never wanted will :
At length uppon a rocke, a craggy hill,
We plaest a pece, and in a trenche beloo
Was other store of smaller shot also.

Forget not here, the weather on the seas
Would not permitte the cannons for to lande.
The longer here we laye to our diseafe
For lacke thereof, which fewe doe understande.
I would demaunde, howe we should take in hande
To laye a siege, or els our campe remove,
When most thinges lackte that was for our behove ?

The woman
was duct in
water.

Among our men might Scottishe vitlers haunt,
Who with the Frenche a treason tooke in hande.
A wife, a queane, did make the Frenche a graunte
Upon this rocke in fight of *Leeth* to stande :

And there to make a signe to *Dozis* bande,
When that the warde were careles and at reste,
Which she did keape ; her selfe the same confeste.

The Frenche came on, as they thus warned were,
Like men of warre, they chose their time full well :
Our men start up, amasde with fodaine fere,
But what was beste to doe they could not tell.
Some, loving fame, his life did dearly fell,
Some, hating death, did fone from daunger shonne,
Some, past all shame, full fast away did runne.

The bloody
Monday.

Some made defence, but still they strove in vayne,
Once order broke, fare well the fight that houre ;
So in this heate was many a fouldiour flayne,
There was no helpe, they were orelaide with power.
Thus have you heard how fortune gan to lowre
Upon our men ; the chaunce of warre is suche
A man may not at no time trust it muche.

But at this tide full many a one was there
Deserved praise that are untoucht for me,
And moste of those that did them stoutly bere
Were mangled than, myne eies the same did see ;
But for they are of meane and base degree
I leave them out : it is sufficient here,
If in the booke of fame their names appere.

Ye knowe when that the waspe within his neste
Is sturde with stick or any other thing,
Affone as he is troubled from his reste,

He crepeth foorth, and sharpely under winge
 He seketh place for to bestowe his stinge :
 So lo ! our campe, that erst in quiet lay,
 At noyes of this began a fearfull fraye.

Sir James a
 Croftes led the
 foldiours on
 their enemies.

Now ran they foorth, and forward ! cryde they all.
 The drummes did founde, the souldiours made great spede
 Unto the trench, the larum was not small,
 But all to late the helpe did come in dede ;
 The captaines still their men with hope did fede,
 And bad them marche : The day is ours, quoth they,
 At fight of whome the Frenche retierd away.

The lord Gray
 that nowe is
 was fore hurte
 at a valiaunt
 charge he
 gave.

Great terror made the curriars in our face,
 Some slaughter to[o] by that to us arose ;
 But yet in spight the foe forfoke the place,
 And straight to *Leeth* in hafte the enmy gofe.
 Abide, quoth we ; ye parte not without bloes.
 Upon them rose the boldest men we had,
 All had not charge that daye the way that lad.

Undoubtedly, the foldiours semd they wolde
 In fonder rive the ramper with their handes,
 And pluck them by the eares out of their holde ;
 But as it was they flewe upon the sandes,
 And left foer hurt, and groning on the landes,
 I judge at leste, as many men full oute,
 Or more then we had lost, have ye no doute.

A bande of men by this time to our aide
 At *Musfelbrough* were come, unarmd I geffe,

Of which reliefe we helde us well apaide.
The enmies store therby became the lesse :
This done, all thinges were put in readines
For to dismounte such peces as we fawe
Upon a church, that kept our campe in awe.

A battry small against the fame was fet ;
In halfe a daye downe fell therof the chiefe,
Than for the siege we found not so much let :
Our skirmishers retired with lesse grieve,
Our men might come more easely to reliefe.
But marke this well, such skirmishing, I faye,
I never fawe, nor hard of, er this daye.

The mounting larke no soner in the skie
Then we were fourth : the Frenchemen were so brave,
Ne night nor day they would not let us lye
In rest, for still they did the skirmishe crave ;
And they in holes them selves could finely fave,
To cause great shot to playe upon their walles,
As though that we were made unto their calles.

And this they ufde full ofte and to our harme,
Untill a staye our leaders tooke therein :
Before in fiede rawe men so thicke would swarme,
That long we seemd more like to lose then wyn,
By rashnes rude of fuche as had not byn
In warres before ; but yet with exercise
A white cote did become both ware and wife.

Rashnes of
fouldiours,
running out
voide of con-
duit, loseth all
many tymes.

And fervde as well as any fouldiour might
 With bowe and bill, fuche weapons as we use,
 And oft therewith they put the Frenche to flight.
 What! marveile not; you knowe this is no newes:
 The bowe hath ofte made them the field refuse;
 The bowe is feard as farre as flies our fame,
 And bowes, I weene, wan Englishmen the name.

Our enemies still to skirmishe us procuerd,
 And gald our beste and ouldest fouldiours fore.
 I tell you trothe, the heate of this enduerd
 Full long, wherby our men away we wore;
 But God be thank't, the Frenchmens losse was more,
 For still they spent upon the stock ye knoe,
 When we without had meane to come by moe.

By depe foresight a mounte there was devisde,
 Which bare the name of *Pellam* for the space.
 I had forgot how Frenchmen cam disgisde
 In womens wedes, like queanes with muffled face:
 They did no acte, but sone they tooke the chace.
 I let that passe, and of the mounte I treate,
 Where, to be playne, the service was full greate.

Sir Andrewe
 Corbet was
 here, and
 other gen-
 tlemen.

The captaine there one *Cutbert Vaughan* was,
 And joynd with him there were a number mo.
 This mounte thus made, the campe away did passe
 More nere the towne, how much I nede not shoo:
 This mounte to *Leeth* was still a daily foo,
 The peces there a longe the rampere shott;
 Some harme they did, but what full fewe men wott.

Upon the fandes they could no cockells feeke,
But that this forte might easely them anoy :
Some derely bought their muskels evry weeke,
Some facrifisde their horse to fwete faint Loy :
Some in their heads did take fo mad a toy,
They never spake a worde ne good nor ill,
Some lernde to feele the weight of our black bill.

A bande of horse there were to warde that forte,
Which evry day did serve full worthely,
With whom the French, some times for chaunge of sporte,
Would mete, and so the matter would they trye.
The Frenche full oft, I can not this denye,
Made fallies forth as tryme as men might do,
And so went home with blud and honor to.

But commonly, in dede, the worst they gate,
Yet still they brav'd and bare their fortune out ;
Their warlike shiftes they were of fuche a traed,
My penne shall but ecclips them, out of doute,
To painte them right ; but since I go aboute
To praise them thus, I will procede for shame,
And let them have their owne deserved fame.

First, all they did was drawn by orders skill,
And feld they paste the boundes of reasons lore :
By pointe devise they skirmished at will ;
That we perceivd they practised no more,
That we feard not, and had not seen before
They put in use : thus still their heads they bende
To purchase prayse, and eke the towne defende.

Policy the
preserver of all
governmentes.

Great neede they had them selves to use full well,
 For all their lives upon their doings laye.
 What should I more upon this matter dwell,
 To tier your eares and waste the time away?
 There was no side stode idell halfe the daye,
 But on both partes for service driftes were founde,
 And every howre we drave them from their grounde.

Maister Pellam,
 lieutenant
 of the ordi-
 naunce.

At *Pellams* mounte, by foote and horsmen both,
 This trade full long did there the souldiours kepe,
 Whose payne was much and fore, I tell you trothe,
 For at no time in quiet could they slepe;
 And specially, when day began to pepe
 The shot went of, then souldiours to their toyle,
 And as hap drewe, they did abide the spoyle.

I nowe returne unto our campe awhyle,
 That laye where shot did daily them salute,
 And where the Frenche with many a warlike wyle
 Did showe our men of warres what was the frute;
 And where some get their death by littell fuet,
 A skarre, a maim, and suche a rude rewarde,
 As moste men findes that do that life regarde.

I spake afore of bickrings by the Frenche,
 But here the heate of serving might be seen;
 They bearded us, and made them trenche for trenche,
 And shewed them selves trimme souldiours, as I ween.
 But what of that? we came to serve the queene
 Though to our losse; our courage did we use,
 We forst our foes their trenche at lengthe refuse.

And to their milles we wente and burnt them downe,
Slew them we founde, where many hurte were than
In service great, right nere before the towne.
Our hap was fuch, that we the honour wan,
Not onely here, but ever when began
A skirmishe, or a bickering any where,
Which, as we gesse, we wanted feldome there.

A thondring noises they made when they came foorth :
Their ratling shot did perce the cloudes, me thought ;
To show the truthe, their corriars were more woorth
Then double tolde the peces that we brought,
And to be plaine, our shot they counted nought ;
Yet as it was, when that our men came nere,
The Frenchmen bought their comming forth full dere.

Yet would they not be kept no tyme within :
An hundreth tymes they issued out, I gesse,
And fought for death their honor for to wyn.
What ere they losfe they bravd no whit the lesse :
If here I should all skirmisshe expresse,
What they have done, what we have wrought like wise,
Of paper fure a quere would not suffice.

Unto my tale my penne, I praye thee, passe ;
What humer brought thy reason here so wyde ?
You knowe, good folkes, in what discours I was.
The campe thus plasfe, we did reliefe abide :
Muche losfe eche daye we had, I will not hide,
And greater harme was likely to enfue,
If some had not made up their bandes anewe.

Of watche and warde our men so wery were,
 They carelesse stode of any hap at all :
 The nightes were fowle, the dayes not very fear,
 The countrie could, their garmentes thinne and small ;
 And still upon their captaines gan they call,
 A faute, a faute ! we lye ore long in trenche ;
 Let us go spende our lives upon the Frenche.

It seemed good the towne for to assaile,
 Men willing were in princes cause to fight ;
 The battry shot, but that did not prevaile,
 Muche poudre spent, the charges was not light,
 Small skathe it did, as femed to our fight.
 This dare I saye, so sharpe a pele so ronge
 I never harde, but yet it durde not longe.

For this assault, lewde ladders, viele and nought,
 The fouldiours had, which were to[o] shorte, God wot ;
 The profe thereof with blud the poore men bought :
 Had they ben long, the towne we might have got,
 But looke what God assigned to our lot,
 We could not shonne, nedes must it come to passe
 That he appointes, as there good triall was.

Captaine
 Randall gave
 warning when
 the assault
 should be-
 ginne.

Let those thinges go ; I kepe an other vaine :
 Of this assault the manner shew I shall.
 First were our men in battaile rangid plaine
 And gardid well with horsmen were they all ;
 The reste in trenche did stand as did befall,
 Till warning made of *Randall*, major there,
 At which they past to *Leeth* withouten fere.

The drommes did founde, the trumpettes blew alowde,
The cannons shot, the bowmen stode not still ;
The smoke was like a fogge or mistie clowde
That poulder made ; our souldiours lackt no will
To clyme the walles, where they receivd much ill,
For when they laide their ladders in the dike,
They were to[o] shorte the lengthe of halfe a pike.

The flankers than, in murdring holes that laye,
Went of and flew, God knowes, stoute men enow ;
The harquebuz afore hand made fowle playe,
But it behovd our men for to go throw,
And so men fought their deathes they knew not how.
From such a fight, swete God, my friendes defende,
For out of frame did divers finde their ende.

To see poore foules there wander in the dikes,
The stones were flunge, the curriar bet them downe ;
The wounded men let fall both bowes and pikes,
The mangled heapes that creped from the towne,
The slaughter foule, and here the wofull sowne
That souldiours cries there made, I thinke in dede,
Would fure compell a stony harte to blede.

The brute of this abasht our bouldist men,
And cut our combes as all were cast away :
The coward forte did steale them homewarde then,
And some in campe came never since that day ;
Some fought dischargd, some sawe so great a fray,
They wisht they had at home bin keaping crooes,
Such is the warres where men both wyn and looes.

I leve that case, and nowe returne I shall
 To those that daye were leaders in the felde ;
 And for in ryme I cannot show it all,
 And well fet forth in ryme are faultes but felde,
 And wordes I lack, and that I am unskilde
 To feke out termes that apte are for that case :
 In profe I minde therefore the same to place.

That shall I wright when this I draw anew,
 Which in short time I mynde at large to set ;
 But for the first, it may suffice to you
 This naked rime out of my handes to get :
 Yet, if I live, I will be in your det,
 To paye you once a better sum, I thinke,
 Then I have yet set forth with penne and ynke.

The Earle of
 Worceters
 brother, maif-
 ter Frances
 Somerfet.

An other mounte, that *Somerfet* was cald,
 Devifed was, where *Somerfet* was plaft :
 This forte full ofte the French both flew and gald,
 And many a time their peces it defaft.
 Here you must note, these mountes were not in wafte,
 For if they had not helde the towne in awe,
 We could not it befege, for ought I fawe.

If that the Frenche, with frendes that were without,
 Had ventred all and stode to fortunes hap,
 In daunger greate we had bene, out of doute,
 And likely fure we were to fall in trap ;
 But lo ! our chiefe, misdowting fuche a clap,
 For wante of men to sege the enmies rounde,
 Devifed fortes upon the metest grounde.

In this meane while, there came *S. Fraunces Leake*
To our reliefe, whereof much nede we had :
A greater lacke we had there than I speake
Of men and helpe, whiche made our hartes full sad ;
But still with wordes the councell did us glad,
And said the Duke was comming have no drede,
Who much desirde for to supplie our nede.

Sir Frances
Leake came
to our reliefe.

The Frenche came forth at midnight after this,
As though they would a canvozado make,
But as God wrought, their purpose did they misse ;
For though some men the trenchis did forsake,
An other forte defence did undertake,
And stode so sure, and shot so in their face,
That there they flew a corprall in the place.

They, feing that, full hastely retirde,
And lokte not backe their fellowes for to see :
To tourne againe was none that them desirde,
Each man is glad to see his enmye flee ;
A bridge of gould give him that runnes from thee,
The wyfe man biddes, which councell they that maye
Will not refuse in warres, I dare well saye.

Now must you note the Frenchemens hartes were hie,
And of reliefe they made a great avaunte,
And for they servd before their mistris eye,
The feates of armes the more they ufd to haunte,
As though our campe their courage could not daunte ;
Wherefore full late at night, when sunne was set,
They issued out to take us in a net.

Upon our trenche and all along the fandes
 They came amaine, farre past a marching pafe,
 And brought abroad their brave and chieft bands ;
 But as God would, we met them in the face :
 Where lo ! the shot enduerd a marvelous space.
 Some men of theirs, that while cride shirly bowes
 So nere the campe, that up the fouldiours goes.

A larom in
 our own campe
 by the French
 policie.

A larom long among them there they had,
 And fundry fortes of thinges they thought thereon,
 But at the trenche was many a stubborne lad,
 Which still with shot did prefe the French upon,
 And lefte them not untill that they were gon,
 Or saw them flye, their whitcotes servd so well :
 I lack but time their worthines to tell.

Our enmies now became more circumspecte,
 And curtsie made so nere our campe to come,
 They would not lose their men to small effecte,
 Nor had no will to hap in whytcoates thom.
 They sent them in without the sounde of dromme ;
 They kept such sturre as never yet I sawe,
 And yet at first they were but blunt and rawe.

Still did we hope to have from *Barwick* aide :
 It coms this day, qd one, it will not faile.
 The fame wherof did make the Frenche afraide ;
 They knew they must abide a newe affaile.
 This newes among our men did much prevaile,
 But in the ende they sawe small hafte was made,
 Wherfore their mindes were in an other trade.

The *Dowager*, the Queene of Scottes, fell sicke
This while whereon : at length this lady dyed,
Whose death did touche the Frenchemen to the quicke ;
For fure their frende she was as well was tried,
(And to her realme, it cannot be denied,
She was full faste) a princes of hye sprete,
For Fraunce a perle, a member apt and mete. *

I had almoste left out a skirmishe here
Upon the sandes, where horsfemen honor gate,
And in despight they rode the Frenche so nere
That divers Frenche were overthrowne therat :
Although that here I partly touched that,
You must not thinke but divers dayes likewyse
The horsfemen kept this common course and guise.

As tyme confumd, so still our men did waste,
And nedefull was for aide, or els for peace ;
And to be brieft, our country made no haste
From watche and warde our fouldiours to releace.
Great murmurs still among us did increace,
But dewtie bad eache fouldiour do his beste,
Till sweete reliefe should bring poore soules some reste.

From Fraunce there came embasadours this to ende,
And from our Queene the like to us was sente :
About the same they did much labour spende,
And as you knowe, both parties were contente.
The Frenche by sea unto their country wente :
Compeld with force, they did forsake the towne,
To our great fame, and honor of the crowne.

The byshop of
Valence from
Fraunce.
My Lorde of
Burleighe,
that nowe is,
came to con-
clude this
peace.

First, give me leave our fouldiours to aduance,
 That with their blud their countries rest have brought ;
 Next, how they servd against the flower of Fraunce,
 And, last of all, did bring their bragges to noughte :
 And more then this, note here and kepe in thoughte,
 They, being weake, did make the strong to bow,
 And to their home returne with conquest now.

Lord Bur-
 leigh ended
 these broyles.

But or I go to farre in fouldiours praise,
 The instrumentes that endid all this toyle,
 I must set forth whose grave and sober waies,
 And stoutnes both, did give the Frenche a foyle :
 They forste the Frenche to yeld to their own spoyle,
 They did perswade, nay rather, them compell,
 To parte to Fraunce, as all men knowes full well.

Was this none acte to worke them so like waxe,
 That were as harde as flinte or stony steele,
 And quencht the fyre that was so nere the flaxe,
 And feast the plage that many one might feele,
 And brought us peace and cast all warre at heele,
 And, as a man might saye, mawgre their teethe,
 Drew out the Frenche out of the towne of *Leeth* ?

Because the brute and betill headed braines
 Can not conceive the depenes of this peace,
 And that some thinke that we have losse our paines,
 Or that by this may further warres encrease,
 For that I would suche fonde conceiptes should seace,
 Here shall I shewe the sum of all the fame,
 As nere as I can put suche thinges in frame.

By this we have, that many kinges did feek,
A perfit peace with Scotland fuer for aye ;
By this the Frenche, that nestled nere our cheek
Full many yeares, are now dispatcht away ;
By this small broyle did feace a greater fray,
By this our realme was rid from further care,
Our foes sent home, and we in quiet are.

By this our Queene hath all her owen requestes,
Unfit for you to know therof the weight ;
By this great things as yet in question restes,
Till for our wealth they shalbe framed streight ;
By this our fame is lifted fuche an height,
That evry wight that throwly wayes this chaunce,
Shall say we strove against the flower of Fraunce.

How happie are the subjectes, hie and low,
Rueld by the prince in whose time this was wrought,
Whiche for the zeale of her own realme, you know,
And Scotlandes love, hath set expence at nought,
And in her dayes to passe fuche thinges hath brought,
As feldome could be compast well with wit,
Wherefore the fame therof to her is fit.

Here have you harde of *Leeth* the ordre throwe,
As farre as ryme will suffer me to wryte :
In prose who liste to make reherfall now,
Thereof hath skope to show in paper whyte
A better waye that shall you more delighte ;
For this was done as there I saw it then,
And time but shorte I had to use my penne.

A FAREWELL

when I went to studie; written to the worlde.

FAREWELL thou world, that me betrayde to long,
To dearely bought I find thy follies all;
Who shall thee serve is fure to suffer wrong,
Who skorns thy happs may shunne thy fodaine fall.
Who fawnes on thee shall drinke thy bitter gall;
Who flyes thy toyes thy painted face shall find:
Who sooner slides than those which at thy call
Lives like thy slaves, in body, soule, and mind?
First from a child with fancies was I fedde
All at thy hands, till I to manhode grue;
Than, in the darke loe! blindfeld was I ledde,
So that my God, my selfe, nor man I knue.
Wield wit, yong bloud, old vice new bred in bones,
Made me forget my dutie all at ones.
Faire thinges, foule thoughts, fond works & flattrring eas
Had moffled mee, and hodwinckt so my wits,
That in the storms I drad no *Sillas* seas,
Nor in the calms I feard no froward fits
Which were to come: things present pleasde me best;
Those gone, I made no myrror to the rest.
Bed soft, full mouth, gay backe, and foolish fame,
Was all I fought, like lord to live at lust;
At my nowne shape and shadow had I game,
A looking glasse, a plaiffeer trim at trust

To prie a pon: my life thus did I frame
Cleane out of tune; I see it now full well,
So that my life was carelesse everye dell.
Yet found I have a heape of other harms
Thereby: what than? I cannot them amende:
When dead they seeme, than spring they up by fwarms.
Such mischiefe riep wil have a rotten ende,
Though at the full the tied of them are now,
The ebb may come when God a time shall fende:
Leave that to him, and I shall tell you how
I learnde to know the course and kinde of man,
His nature new, his fashon halfe disgiefde,
And how for shame at length lo! I began
To follow that which I afore dispiefde.
Full welcome ought that learning be to me,
Which taught me wit when wieldnes weavd the loeme
Of wanton wayes, and blindnes gan to see
The path he miste, the way that ledde me home
Unto the port where I would harbred be,
And rather dwel with quiet settled minde,
Than rove abroad to seeke uncertaine luck,
Or subiect be to filthy worldly muck.
I would not, sure, be bound to such a clogg,
That would me rob of reason and good skill,
And in the ende but fishe and catch a frogg;
As some have done, and some do use it still,
Which snatch the bone before the hongry dogg,
Who will not part from that hee hath in hold,
Although in deede his maister would it have.
Unto this ende this tale now have I told,
To shew him wyse that knoweth what to crave,

And asks of those that freely gives for nought ;
But he most wise that hath no greedie thought,
And can content him with those litle skrapes
That falls by lot unto him for his share ;
And finds no fault at others worldly haps,
But hath a head as free from inward care
As babe new borne : yea, such a one may smile
And laugh his fill, when some cryes wo the pye.
He shall see much that hath a simple eye ;
That man shall see the strong the weake begile,
The poore by rich and mighty swallowd upp,
The harmles drinke out of the poisoned cupp,
The needie lacke that greedy raveners gripe,
The theves let goe that robbs in skarlet weeds,
And sits on bentch when troeth feeles many a stripe :
How feare is dubd a knight for coward deeds,
How manhoode beggs, and none are helpt that needs ;
How creepe in hools, that did no hurt at all,
Are valiaunt calde : such is the peoples bruite.
The quiet man these thinges behold he shall,
And see them passe, and learne thereby some fruite
As I have done, though farre from quiet minde,
In any case, my selfe God wotte I finde,
Save that to toile and burthens for to beare
I framed am, and letts the world alone
Amid my foes, that fawns and speaks full fear,
I live a louff, and will not be a knowne.
There hate I have, I must dissemble there,
As doth those mates that playes at Fortunes ball.
Do not some halte that well may go upright ?
Who can denie, but we dissemble all

In some one pointe, and wisedome we it call ?
Thinges are not founde as they do seeme to fight ;
Some laugh in hart, yet shew a weeping eye :
You have hard say, the blind eates many a flie.
How should the fadde with wantons myrth agre,
The hole with sicke, the wise with foolish dwell,
The proude with meeke, the meane with mighty be,
If all these forts could not dissemble well ?
And even so it fareth now by me :
I wincke at things that I would not behold,
And see those faule that profit mee no whit ;
I heare likewise that I can wishe untold,
I shoote with them that never marke may hit ;
But me beleve, yet winne the game I would
Among that fort that giveth aem to fit.
I like not sure : I rather wish to bet
Than loke apon, and lay on near a fied.
Set doubts a part, it is good sport to get,
But he that winns must hazard needes abide.
(I leave you there) I would so make my game,
It wear halfe won before the match wear tride,
And make him thincke that hits the marke is wide,
And say himselfe he roveth out of frame.
I pray you now, who would not do the same
To gaine thereby, or els at least to save ?
Than, graunt me this : dissemble sure he must
As I may do, or in time paste I have,
And made some blind that better saw than I,
And saw full oft that I would not perceive
When that thereon did life or daunger lye :
And yet I lookt, and leered, by your leave,

Note.

What might befall, and fought to shun the shocke ;
 And as I fled, ill fortune followd faste,
 Whan she would strike, I scaped many a knocke
 By douking downe. I knew so well her cast,
 With cap and knee her favour sone I wan,
 So in a while she toke me as her man :
 But whan I thought most holde of her to take,
 A way she wente, the whirle winde in her taile ;
 Yet with her frends fayre wether did I make,
 Whose helpe was good when world began to faile.
 And if you aske how I acquainted was
 With such sure props that holds up house and all,
 And how that I could bring such things to passe
 To keepe me up whan divers fought my fall ?
 (His fall not great, it cannot be I trow,
 Whose climinge up was never much, you know.)
 This by the way I speake, yet aunfweare loe
 To you I make, that this demaundes of mee.
 To courte I came, wher I could hear and see
 As others did, and with the strong I stoode :
 As world did wag I wound my barke about,
 And leand me there wher I could find most good.
 In deede this was the way to beare it out,
 And there I founde of eyrye fort ynow :
 Would I be brave, I knew wher mates were had ;
 Would I be stout, I saw who would not bow.
 Hie lookes was he that still I saw go throw :
 That shippe made way that all the failes could beare ;
 Small sprite fate low with finger in his eare ;
 Great curtchie crept full hie among the best :
 He made them laugh that lokt as he would sweare,

Note.

He carryed coales that could abide no geaft.
Plaine life, the lowt, was little fet by theare ;
Fine taunting tongues brought many a foole in feare.
Make love, the meeke, was ready at a call ;
Faine would be feene was frisking evrye where ;
Set foorth to fale was markt beyonde them all.
Vaine glorie smield and loekt for much a doe,
New fanglenes shaekt off old friendship paf ;
Fien faule at foote could whine and bite you toe.
Proude blind confait would not be placed laft,
Small witte would laugh at wifer than him felfe ;
Disdaine, that dwarfe, loekt like a pivifhe elfe,
Straunge nature fround when homely folkes fate downe ;
Full purfe found frendes that came but late to towne.
Set by himfelfe would not falute but fewe ;
Small worth made boeft ; ftill mouth was all the fhrewe :
Tell all, that blabb, was cald a royster than,
Fals femblaunce thrivde, that could ii. faces beare ;
Happy was hee that was a turncoets man :
They fped not worft that counterfaited wear,
Do as world did drave of the longest time ;
Hee had the lands that was Dick shifters ear,
He caught the byrdes that beft could fet the lime,
Yet broken thins fome gate that ufde to clime.
Spite fpornde at thofe that better fped than he,
All bufie heads could not on fhoulders bide,
They met full oft that feldome could agre.
Who fell fo fone as witte oermatcht with pryde ?
Who rofe but fuch as roffled forth their yeares ?
Yet chaunge of fuites brought many in the breares ;
White plumes coft pens, apparel pickt the porfe,

Note.

All worne in courte was not in city paide.
Sharpe fet faid oft, backe cloutes made belly worfe,
Bare cloake he ware whose credite was decaide;
Catch nought, poore knave, could court and courtierscorfe;
Spend all fate still, and loked like a maide;
Hope well, made spoile, and waited for a day;
Unthrift would sweare and dice it all away;
Tosse blade would snuffe and shake a swinish head,
Dare do loked bigge as butcher in his shoppe;
Save groet smeld out where hunger might be sped;
Proude would not speake that fate not at the toppe,
When Lortch was out, some knew not where to dyne.
Who kepes the barre? was asked every houre;
Some spake full fayre to get a cuppe of wyne:
God save you, sir, wilt please ye take a floure,
A sweete red rose? he had that kept good cheare,
And many a cappe and curtchie to the ground,
An ofsar still was made of all the yeare.
Old stagers knew, where such a frend was found;
Yong frie might fast for any thing they gate;
New commers walkt abroad for taking cold;
Full pauntch did march as he had bin a state.
Who lookes like mee? thoughte he that chippings fold.
When Christmas robes wear broesht, and the day worne,
Well was that man mighte bid that saint good morne;
Beare rule stoode stiffe and kept his betters out;
Bold face thrust in throw thickest preace and thronge;
Hoffe have at all full hye could hold the snout;
Speake as he thought was not in favour longe;
Finde fault, the foole, would flier in echmans face;
Ritch rueld the roste, lacke frends felt all the wrong:

Bare life knew not to whom to shew his case ;
Waft all the wield might sing a heavy song ;
Hoyft up in haft forgate from whence he came ;
Hie office fkornde to loke backe how he climde ;
Hogge Norton breede difdainde to know their dame.
Pried feard no fall, till foote full faft was liemde ;
Snatch fkratched all and gave his fellowes none ;
Neede likt the plaets and gnawed bare the bone ;
Mountch present crept in corners all alone ;
Havoke was made, where meate was litle seene :
Unworthie of breede fardewel, God fave the Queene !
Spoile would not spare, his charges was but fmall ;
Make feaft fild in, the king did pay for all ;
Seeke helpe fpeake faire, yet floely fpeede his fuite ;
Give bribes was hard, his money told his tale ;
Lacke nought had more, but want could finde no fruite :
Neede blew his nailes and looked very ftale ;
Skill for a fhift was glad to teach for pens ;
Old hangars on would not be beaten thens :
Witte did invent but wealth bare all the bruite ;
Boldnes did fpeake when bashnes was full muite,
Cunning wrought much, but craft beyonde him crept.
Poets made rymes, but roysters praifes rept ;
Wifedome would waite on many a wodcocke oft ;
Old broems were good, but new al cleane they fwapt ;
Love eafe fate long and loekt to lye full foft.
Eate much would boeft he farvde our fuffraunt long ;
Fat browes knightes, I tell you, toke great paine ;
Some went full gaie that was not worth a thong ;
Some throe at all and nicked evrye maine.
He talkt of warres that had fmall wit in peace ;

Skarce knew himfelfe would common wealthes debate,
He fpake great thinges that fwelted in his greace.
Witles, well diende, would be a lords checke mate.
Loe croetcht unto a fore difcourfe would make;
Make rounge, my frends, (qd. he) that kept the gate.
Craft had a care to all he did or fpake :
Unwelcomde geafts ftept in and askt no leave,
Some pleasde the prince, yet had the peoples hate ;
Some farvd them both, and did them both deceave.
He near fate ftill that corrid favour well ;
Some plaied the foxe that like a goofe could looke ;
Some afkte what newes, and yet could wonders tell.
Smal minde of God would often beare a booke,
He went to mafse that would the challice fell.
Some lovde the church for the fweete relickes thear,
Some made of faints brought up another whear ;
Some neither faint nor devill fearde at all,
Some liekt this world more than the world to come,
Some in their ruffe would get about the haul.
Some fpent fuch nights they drad no daye of dome ;
Some watcht their time, and yet thear time they loft :
Some bankets made, and wear bankrout at laft ;
Some learnde to be fine courtiers to their coft ;
Some had fmall helpe, and yet fpent all full faft :
Some fought to fpend upon anothers charge ;
Some carelefse livde and walkt abroad at large ;
Some cravde a pace and caught fome crows by craft ;
Some could not afke, they thought defarts fhould crave :
Some made faire fale of blades loufe in the haft ;
Some never wanne, nor could devife to fave ;
Some waited hard, and gate fmall frute therefore.

Some had ill hap, and yet no vertue lackt ;
Some savde odde ends and made of litle more ;
Some had their baggs as full as could be thwakt ;
Some made cold myrth, yet favred for fuch vice ;
Who Fortune liekt was ever moft in price.
All this in Court I fawe and kept in ftore
Full twentie yeares, as tryall good I have
Not of Court now, as Courte hath bin of yore
I write, I speake, and treate, fo God me fave,
To fhew wherefore from thence I me withdrew.
What harme it did unto my betters farre ;
What good likewise he gat that Courte wel knew,
How some did make, and some therein did marre,
But to be plaine, where I fuch chaunges found
I lifte not dwell : let them that wil be bound
To that fhort raine, I chufe the quiet foile,
The countrie large to have free fkope to walke ;
To be in Courte I count it but a toile :
Where hart much thincks, and tongue dare little talke,
Where fome muft fit, and loke upon the walls,
And beate their heeles againft formefides all day,
And fubjects are to others beckes and calls :
That life is weake wherein there is no ftay.
A peece of breade is better had with eas
Than bankets sweete apon fuch bitter bords.
Some fay there is no fifhing to the feas,
Yet many troutes are caught on litle fords
That fhallow feeme, with other pretie fifhe
That at the length will make an honeft difhe.
On litle brooks men angle fafe and drie
In lether bootes, and dread no drowning there ;

On these rough seas the least winde in the skie
Tieps up the barke, or brings a man in feare.
Some have no harts with roring waves to strive,
Full greene to fight, and ugly to the eye,
Which on the rocks the filly vessels drive,
And knocks their keels, and makes poore pilots crie
Hael in the faile ! let go the bowling, mate !
Now, in good faith, such sodaine shocks I hate.
Yet some will thincke I am not settled foe,
But I wil seeke to trie the sea againe.
Why is the earth so narrow, would I knoe,
I cannot finde where I may well remaine ?
The world is wide, and men must burthens bere,
That ordainde are unto no better chaunce :
That goes not here, takes roote another where.
Some shooteth ill, yet hapneth by a glaunce
To hit their game ; men ought to do their best
And seeke for lucke, and let God worke the rest :
So for my part I shal likewise proceede,
And though I bid the Court and world farewell,
I meane to use them both as I have neede ;
But for to fay in courte I wishe to dwell,
I minde it not, as good me helpe and speede ;
And for the world his yoke still draw I must,
But sure I serve him all against my lust,
For in the same is neither hope nor trust.
Wherefore my leave I take as powre I have
From him and his, though course of life sayth noe :
A worldling here I must be to my grave,
For this is but a May game, mixt with woe,
A borrowd roulme where wee our pagents play,

A scaffold plaine where on we revells make,
A croked path, a parlous fals hie way,
A toilsome foile, where we much travel take.
Good reader, now do neither ftinge nor hisse
At any thing that in this verse is plaest :
Where fault is found, for favour mend the misse.
This roving rime was flubberd up in haest,
And nought thereby the simple writer ment,
But neither Court nor world could him content.

A FAYNED FANCYE

betweene the Spider and the Gowte.

IF that ye list to give me eare,
And with my matter for to beare,
Although a fable tell I shall,
It is to make you meerie all.
Ye may some pleasure finde therein,
And yet my tale not worth a pinne ;
As I have hard, from thinges of nought
Is wisedome and greate knowledge fought :
Yea, goulde is gotten out of droffe,
And torves are made of mucke and mosse,
That beetes the poore a goodly fire.
Nowe to my tale I will retire.
Tenne thousand yeare agoe at least,
I meane whan evry birde and beast,

And evrye thing that we can name,
Could talke and reason in good frame,
It hapned than, make you no doute,
Betweene the Spider and the Goute
There fell a strife, full straunge to heare,
Which was ear ended was that yeare.
These two would know by chaunge of place
Who furthest stooode in Fortunes grace,
And which of them was best at ease ;
So ech a part, as he did please,
A master chose unto his minde :
A day betweene them was assinde,
Whan that the yeare was full runne out,
For talke twene Spider and the Gout ;
And at which season meete they would
Their haps and fortune to unfold.
The grevous griping Goute should goe
Unto a husbandman, I troe,
And dwell with him for that yeare than ;
The Spider to a gentleman.
And so they parted severall wayes ;
But which of them had mirrist dayes,
Here after shall you here me tell.
The Spider was not welcomde well
Into the pallace where he dwelt,
But rather many a mischiefe felt ;
For evry day there was a maide
That made the Spider fore afraide.
With merry larke this maiden roes,
And straight about the house she goes,
With swapping besome in her hand,

Note.

And at her girdle, in a band,
A jolly bontch of keyes she wore :
Her petticoet fine laeft before,
Her taile tockt up in trimmest gies,
A napkin hanging oer her eyes
To keepe of[f] dufte and droffe of walles
That often from the windowes falles.
Though she was finog, she toke fmall eas,
For thrifty girlls are glad to pleas :
She wanne the love of all the houle,
And pranckt it like a pretty moufe.
And fure at evry word she fpake,
A goodly curtchie could shee make ;
A ftoering houfwyfe evry where,
That bent both backe and boones to bere.
She never fleeped muche by night,
But roes fometimes by candell light
To card and fpinne, or fowe her fmocke :
There could no foner crow a cocke
But she was up to fleek her cloes,
And would be fweete as any roes :
Full cleanly ftill the girle would goe,
And handsome in a houle alfo,
As ever fawe I countrie wentch.
She fweped under evry bentch,
And fhaekt the cofhens in their kinde,
When out of order did she finde ;
A rushe, a ftraw, or little fticke,
She could it mend, she was fo quicke,
About her bufnes evry houre.
This maide was calde her miftres floure.

She bare the keyes of ale and beare,
And had the rule of better cheare.
She was not nice, nor yet to kinde,
To proude, nor of to humble minde,
To fine, nor yet to brave, I troe :
She had, as fayre as I do knoe,
Two faire newe kirtles to her backe :
The one was blue, the other blacke.
For holy days she had a gowne,
And evrye yard did cost a crowne,
And more by xviii. pence, I gesse :
She had thre fmocks, she had no leffe ;
Foure raylls, and eek five karchers fayre,
Of hofe and fhoes she had a payre ;
She needed not no more to have,
She would go barefoote for to fave
Her fhoes and hoofe, for they were dere.
She went to towne but ones a yere,
At Eafter, or fome other day,
When she had licens for to play.
I had forgotten for to tell,
She had a purffe shee loved well,
That hanged at a ribende greene,
With taffails faire, and well befeene ;
And as for gloves and knives full bright,
She lacked not, nor trifles light,
As pins and laces of fmall cost.
I have to you rehearsed moft
Of all her goodnes ; now, to the forme
And making of this creeping worme .
Her port was lowe, her face was fayre ;

It came no fooner in the ayre,
But it would pill ; her cheekes were thin,
God knowes, she had a tender skin.
The worst mischape this minion had,
Her leggs were fowllen very bad :
Some heavy humor downe did fall ;
Her foote was narrow, short and small ;
Her body sklender as a snigg,
But sure her buttocks were full bigg :
That came, I thincke, by sitting mitch,
And in her side she had a fitch,
That made her oft short winded sure,
But her complexion was full pure.
She was well made from toppe to taile,
Yea, all her lims withouten faile
Were fine and feat ; she had a hand
There was no fayrer in the land,
Save that with toile it chaunged hue ;
Her fingers small, her vaines full blue,
Her naills a litle largely growen,
Her hear much like the funne it shoen ;
Her eyes as blacke as jet did seeme,
She did herselfe ful well exsteeme ;
Her lipps were red but somewhat chapt,
Her tongue was still and seldome clapt.
She spake as she were in a cloude,
Neither to soft, nor yet to loude,
And tript apon the floer as trim,
Ye would have thought that she did swim.
As she did goe, such was her pace
She minssed fine, like maistres Grace,

That at the Daggar dwelled oens,
Who made good pies of mari boens.
I dare depoes apon a booke,
Shee was as good a maiden cooke
As ever drest a peece of meate ;
And for a banket, small or great,
And rayfing paest she passed still.
As foone as flowre came from the mill,
She made the goodliest kaeks thereof,
And baekt as faire a houshold loef
As ear was feene, or fet on bord.
What needes more talke ? at one bare word,
The greatest lady in a sheer
She might have farved seven yeer.
This maide, as you do understande,
With fwinging beesome in her hand,
About the windowes would she prie,
And where she might a Spider spie,
Downe went his webb and all his worke.
The Spider had no place to lorke,
Nor made his skaffold, hie nor low,
But that this maiden still would goe
Unto a forme, or els a stoel,
And with some kinde of reatching toel
She raught the silly Spiders neast.
The Spider found no other feast,
But evrye day foule ferved was.
Somtime he builded neer the glas,
Somtime full oer his maisters hed,
Somtime befoer the maydens bed,
Behind the skreen, or on the wawll ;

Somtime in parlor or in hawll,
In privey or at portall doer,
But still this mayde upon the floor
Would fling him flat and clap her foet,
(When that she fawe no other boet)
Upon the Spyder, if she might :
But though he lakt both fens and fight,
His skrawling legs did help him oft ;
Full foen ye should see him aloft,
And thear he would a web begyn,
But all in vayn the foell did spyn :
For loek, what all the night he wrought,
The maid at moern brought clean to nought.
This torment still the Spyder had,
Whan any flye had maed him glad,
And fell into the Spyders trap,
Then should thear faull a fearfull clap.
A broem, or els a littell poell,
Maed Spyder seek an other hoell ;
He lost his fly, his house, and all.
In wyndo cloes, nor open wall,
He might not dwell ; he felt such wrong,
The Spyder thought this yeer full long,
And wist that hit wear all ron out,
That he might reason with the Gowt,
To heer which of them boeth had felt,
The better dayes whear they had dwelt.
The Gowt had found as ill an oest,
The vereist drudg in all the coest ;
For if he might a penny wyn,
He labred throw boeth thick and thyn :

And yet he was an honest man,
So held in all the parish than :
A good housholder and a iust,
But fuer he lived not by lust,
Nor fought his eas to lyg in bed.
To many a mouth yet gave he bred,
And yet, I ges nowe by my lyef,
Neither this man, nor yet his wyef,
Wear worth five pounds in redde gold,
Though they an honest house did hold.
At plow and cart his goods he gaet,
He lay not long, nor watched laet,
Nor with ill ruell no surfet found ;
He eat and drank, and slept full sound.
This grunting grobber was short & thick,
His face was red as any brick ;
Whear in thear stoed a bottell noes.
A couple of corns upon his toes
He had, which maed him cut his shue.
He never put on garment nue,
But whan that to the waeks he went,
He was dressed up like Jack a Lent ;
And coblar like, whan he did wortch,
But when this yoman went to chortch,
A fleveles jacket than he waer,
A velvet nightcap half threed baer ;
A chamled dobled stockt with fylk,
His short fayer weysht as whit as milk.
But herein must be understoed,
His wief was come of gentyll blood,
Which would not have him clad in clouts,

But whan he moyld with other louts ;
Then caerd she not what he put on.
His house hit was not maed of stoen,
The wauls with lyem wear whitted well,
And thatcht oer hed, the troeth to tell.
The smoek cam forth the thatch somtime,
But who did on the rafters clyme
Should finde fat bakon hanging thear ;
The house could not be kept full fear
For hens and capons, dogs and cats :
About his bed wear many gnats,
That hommed still upon his face,
And full of myce was evry place.
Of children had he many a oen,
But idell in the house was noen,
Except it wear an infant yong :
The maydens to their wheel they song,
The carddars myrry wear also,
The hyends about the fields did go,
The oxen champped in the stawll,
The pygs lay grontting by the wawll,
The capuls fed upon their hay,
The hens full many an egge did lay ;
The gees weare gagglyng on the green,
And in good order, as I ween,
Wear all things that this poore man had.
The Gowt therof was very glad,
And thought to trie him for a yeer,
And so to taest cold countrey cheer ;
And as the poore man foundly slept,
In to his joynts the Gowt he crept :

Like thief that steals upon a wyght,
That ryeds aloen in wynters night.
So stept the Gowt unto this man,
And fought to vexe his body than ;
And hoept when poer man eafd his grief,
That he should finde such great relief,
Such rest, such skoepe, and tak such hold
Of man to wander whear he wold.
Yea, fuer the Gowt had found a foyll,
He thought to bring to utter spoyll :
But loe ! as leyfy lobber laye
A bed, and groend in break of daye,
His wyef so fowll a bawling kept,
And fayd, fie, husband ! you have slept,
God knoes, awaye boeth wyt and thrift,
Be God, ye must maek better shift :
To pay our rent our landlord cries,
On plowe and cart our wealth must ries,
And not on stretching in the bed.
Ye kno your children must be fed,
Your servants kept and wagis payd :
In deed, good man, I am afrayd
That we shall forfeit leace and all,
And into shaem and beggry fall.
Ye kno your wyef doth go full baer,
And loeks so lean with cark and caer,
She changed hath her collor clean
Unto a peas, or partched bean,
And wydthers lyek a cock of hey ;
Yea, glad to feed on crudds and whey,
And pintch her belly for your saek :

And though I chees and butter maek,
I fell the faem to maek us rytch,
Yet, well ye wot, we have not mytch.
My goown is lyk to go to gaeg,
The landlord is in fuch a raeg,
He will have money out of hand,
He must redeem his morgaegd land,
That youthfull frisks in hazard brought :
Tushe, man! your wief taeks all the thought,
Not only howe to paye the rent,
But also howe to live in Lent ;
And get some herrings hoem, ye knoe
Our stoer is gon full long agoe.
When fleash and whytmeat waxeth deer,
A herring cobbe will wake good cheer,
Among our hynds and children toe.
Let neighbours witnes what I doe
To maintaine houfhold in good staet :
I washe, I wryng, I watch up laet,
I fast, I spaer, I skrat, I skraep,
And after goods and gayn I gaep,
Whyels husband taeks his pleasure ftill,
And hoepts to have the world at will,
By fleep and crying out of payn.
Let ries a blyfter or a blayn
Upon your littell fingers end,
Straight for a furgion must you fend :
Your father could taek falt and fut,
And lyvly, lyek a lusty gut,
A medfin maek for evry foer,
And never would ly down therfor :

No, though in deed the fhyn wear broek.
Fy! lie not smearing in the smoek,
For folysh smarts, and stitchis viell.
The husbandman began to smyell
To heer the babbling of his daem,
But, nill he would he, world did fraem
So awkward wyth this fylly foul,
That up he roes, and toek a powll
In feble hand, to stay upon,
But busnes sayd he must begon ;
And haeld him out of doer in haest,
This goodly grubbe with fagot waest,
Bestoers his joynts about the feld,
In things whear on pooer men aer skild,
And feldome stayd in any place,
As haemd in house to hyed his face ;
Or under hedge or tree to rest.
This trobled much his new come gest,
The gowt I mean ; but caerles loe !
Of gowt the poore man trodged thoe.
Oer hedge and styell he skipt and flang,
And, as the birds on boeshes sang,
He whistled all the way he went,
And hoemward for his brekfast sent.
Whyels hee the oxen yooked fast ;
And clyemd the trees to beat down mast,
For swyen that must in haest be fold ;
And put the skattred sheep in fold.
He did, for sheppard had he noen,
For loe ! the greatest flock was goen,
And needles servants aer not fyt.

This man had need pluck up his wyt
To pleas his wyef, and pay his due.
What shuld I longer talk to youe
Of his affayrs? about he flees,
As though his hed wear full of bees.
He ran lyk hound that hunts the haer,
(And of the gowt toek littell caer)
About his work now heer, now thear:
Somtime with brambuls would he tear
His coet, his fkin, and knock his knee
Against a stubbe or croked tree;
And as he after horses ran,
Somtime fell down this honest man.
No foener up, but troedged abowt:
Theas jobs lyckt not the tender gowt;
He lockt for pylloes soft and sweet,
And oyntments for the swollen feet,
And plaesters warm to humors cold,
And in fayre clowts to be enrold,
And not to find such froward faer.
Well, what of that? good husbands aer
A labring to make up their mowse,
(And wyn thear bred by sweat of browse)
As was this wyght wher on I wryt.
Abroed in field was his delyt,
In many a shuer and bitter blast,
And every day till noen wold fast:
For wantton will he would not eat,
But honger faufyd still his meat,
And feldom roes with belly full:
His children from his mouth wold pull

The bred, the chees, and other cheer.
He kept no houshold for a yeer,
And waested all in littell space,
But for his lief time in oen cace
Ye should his order finde so well,
To much thear was not near a dell,
Nor yet to littell: as he throve,
The tyme and world away he drove,
And maid of peas and bakon fod,
In eeven houe a banket od,
A feast that fylde the empty paunch,
A joncket that will hunger staunch,
As soen as costly martchpaen fien,
And fydor in the steed of wien;
And that was dronk at hy myd meall.
A stroek of roest, of beef or veall,
On evry Sondag did he use;
And all his hardnes did would he skues,
With marraeg of his daughter Kaet.
And still he sayd, twas better laet
To thryve, than never save a groet.
He could on fingers ends by roet,
Rehers the cours of all the yeer,
The chang of mooen, and could goe neer,
To tell whan evry starre should ries,
And talke of planets in the skies:
But that he lernd by sheppards ruell.
At Whytfontyed, at Paece, and Yuell,
He gave his housholde leave to play;
And than at stoelball all the day
Ye might have founde the mery gyrls,

Bedeckt with works and roefs of pyrls ;
And fine froes pafts, yee startcht full tryme,
As pretty pearls wear fhining thear :
They had no gymmols at the ear,
For that nue trick cam out of Spayn ;
Yet though their garments were but playn,
They had as pivyshe paets, I knoe,
As had in town the corstest shroe,
That goes in fkarlet now and than :
In houshold with this hoemly man
Wear wentchis worth the looking on.
Well yet the gowt would needes be gon :
His oeft had near a lodging good
To harbor fuch a hevy blood,
And yet he muft his yeer abyed,
And throw the fier be better tryed.
This man had maed a bargaine nowe,
And shaept to fell boeth bull and cowe,
The sheep and oxen in the ftawll,
To by a better farm withall ;
And out of hand a jorney great,
He had to goe, in cold and heat :
And all a foet this muft be don,
With batten cap and clowtted shon ;
With wallet full of bread and chees,
And ragged ruffet coet of frees ;
And on his back he boer a bryeb,
And littell thought upon the kyeb
That hard behind the heell he had.
The bargayn maed, the foell fo glad,
That out he went, as he wear wood,
And feldom fure in quiet ftood,

Till clean dispatch theas things had byn.
The gowt, that lorked clos within,
At hand beheld theas outward woes;
Than straight unto the spyder goes,
And maeks a foer complaynt of this.
The spyder that tormented is,
A wors discours to him he told:
Thear maisters after chang they wold.
As they deviesd, and brought to pas,
The gowt and spyder placed was
At eas, as we may find full well.
With hie degree the gowt did dwell,
And propped up with koshons gaye,
On bed or bentche at will he laye:
If gowt his maister did diseas,
Moeft glad he was was the gowt to pleas,
With furs and clowts to keep hit warm,
And to avoyd a further harm,
The gowt was hapt and handled soft,
And with swet earbes well bathed oft,
And fed with dainty meats enowe.
The knee nor joynt durst no man bowe:
That gowt had governd this was true,
Yea evry ovr a pashon nue
Hit brought and bred in maisters hart,
And shronk the vains in evry part.
But he that ons had lodged this gest,
(And bent him self to geve him rest,)
Must needs whyels lief doth last take pain,
As loe! this maister was full fain
The gowt had found so fien a traed,

That as he would his refdens maed,
From hand to foet, from knee to wryft,
And ruelde his mafter as him lyft.
With yoman will I dwell no moer,
Qd. he, for fear of handling foer ;
Nor part I tro from gentill bloed.
The spyder in liek cafe he ftoed ;
He made his cobwebs whear he wold,
And in his lodging was as bold,
As any oen may be at hoem,
And further ment he not to roem.
He found no mayd his reft to let,
They wear to other labour fet.
Thus gowt and spyder wear full glad
That they their maifters changed had ;
And fo I leave them for this tyme,
And heer knit up this croked ryme.
This taell is written for your wealth,
To fho wherin confifts your health ;
I do but heer example maek
Of things I trust ye not miftaek,
Therby declaring, as I can,
That evry grief that coms to man,
By idell lief doth gro and fpring.
The gowt is foner with a king
Than with a weary labring wyght :
Why is it rather with the might,
Than with the mean. but for in deed,
That hunger maks the poer man feed ?
So diversly he fedeth not,
As doth the rich man, well ye wot :

Note.

Note.

The rich haeth many a fyen device,
His mynd and diet is fo nice.
He knoes not what to eat is best,
And maks full many a needles feast
To stoer the lust, and pleas the mouth
With fondry fortes of things uncowth.
The belly is no soner full,
The bones must rest, and down he wull
Upon a bed, or in a chayre,
Syts stretching, when, to taek the ayre,
He should go walk the fields about,
The want wherof doth breed the gowt :
I mean, of to much eas doth ryes
Great harm and grief in fondry wyes ;
And most of those that fienly faer,
Without some sicknes never aer,
For evry meat must have his kynd.
In stories old I read and fynd
That man by roots and erbs lyvd long,
And so grue mighty, larg, and strong ;
Boeth hoell and found, and well dispoesd
Untill our knoledge had disclofd,
That fleash was sweet, and fish good meat ;
But when therof we gan to eat
A ranker blood that foed did breed,
And caufd moer humors than did need ;
And altred fo our lyvely vayns,
With swellings strang, with botch and blayns,
That evry yeer diffesis nue
Within our bodies dayly grue :
And yet, as our new fedings change,

Diseases com, which aer so strange
We can not naem them in their fraem,
Nor seek remedy for the faem.
Som dye that never semeth sick,
Som live and would be buried quick :
Their payns they are without redres,
We can not evry greef expres,
That riseth of our riots great,
And surfets that we taek of meat.
The plowman haeth no fear of that,
Though that the spyder and the gnat
Within his house thear pleafuer taek :
The gowt doth feldom him awaek ;
He lets the spyder kyll the flye,
And from the gowt full faef doth lye,
When that the gentill man is fayn
The corffed gowt for to retayn.

A DOLLFULL DISCOURS

Of two straungers, a Lady and a Knight.

DRAWE neer, good mynds, that fadly marks
the fway of worldly broylls,
And heer what I at large can fay
of troublous tomling toylls,
Which did befall in forrayn land,
tween two of noble race ;

Note.

To whose mishaps and haetfull fact
 a world hit felf gives place.
 Not long agoe the cace so stoed,
 a knight of great estaet
 (In native foyll by deaftnies lot)
 a ladies favour gaet :
 With whom he joynd, a hazard great,
 his lyking led him foe,
 That neyther fear of frowning Gods,
 nor dreed of earthly woe,
 Could maek him stayn his plighted troeth,
 fuch constant mynd he baer,
 For which this second Phenix may,
 with turttell true compaer.
 But well away ! alas for woe !
 his grief thearby began :
 In prince displeasuer, throw this prank,
 fell loe ! this faithfull man.
 And Cefar frowning on the fact,
 thear was no nother boet
 But flye the realm, or prostraet fall
 full flat at Cefars foet.
 O staets ! by this com lern to stoup :
 no stoutnes can prevayll,
 When from the heavens storms do bloe,
 and striketh down your fayll.
 From thonder cracks boeth man and beast,
 yea, fun and moen doth flye ;
 The earth and all that lives belowe
 doe feare the ratling skye.
 When Gods aer moved in louring cloudes,
 lyek dusky mantels black,

Note.

The troubled aire to mortall men
doth threaten ruen and wrack.
I turne my talke from such discour,
and treat of that tormoyll,
Which long this knight and lady felt,
at hoem in contrey foyll ;
And somewhat of the caers a broed,
that he perforce did taest,
I mean to wryt, so that as troeth
my verses be embraest ;
For troeth and time, that tries out gold,
hath tempred so my talk,
That pen nor Mues no pleasuer taeks
on doutfull ground to walk.
Now, whan these staets with links of love
wear tyde together fast,
And many a sad and heavy thought
between them boeth had past,
Of princes grace and favour great,
(to which regard they toek
As chiefest thing and only cause)
wheron they ought to loek,
They wayd in ballance of their brefts,
what fittest servd their torns ;
And lyek as wood taeks flaem of fire,
and so to fynders borns,
So throw the heat of this mishap,
they felt such forrowe thoe,
As though hard deaftnye swoer they should
confuem them felves with woe.
The lady lost her fredom streight,
the Gods had so decreed ;

Her knight by fodain flight a broad,
made vertue of a need.
And living thear with lingring hoep
in forrain contrey strange,
Whear absence might throw present toyes
in some men worke a change,
He stoed as ferm as marble stoen,
and kept boeth troeth and tutch,
To her who found few friends at hoem,
and harts diseas was mutch.
Yea, though this knight with offers great
and treasuer tempted was,
(As they full well can witnes bear,
who sawe those matters pas)
Yet small acount of fortuen nue
he maed ; for still in brest
Was shryend the saynt that stoeny wals
and pryson had posselt.
No feer, nor frynd, nor fellow maet,
this Troylus mind might move ;
This fawcon scornd to pray abroad,
at hoem he left his love.
Full many a figh and hevy loek
he sent a long the seas,
And wysht him self in fetters fast,
to doe his lady eas.
What grief of mynd and torment strang
she suffred all the whyell,
Is knowen to those that bondaeg feels,
whose frynds aer in exiell.
Could mischief fawll on boeth the fyeds,
moer harder than hit did ?

The oen from joye and worldly pomp
in pefon cloesly hid,
The other forst by fatall chance
to seek his fortuen out,
And shonning danger found dispayre
in wandring world about.
But wayeng well a subjects staet,
and what was dueties bounds,
He yeelded streight to open harms,
for fear of secret wounds ;
And ventring lyef, yea, lands and goods,
to keep his naem from blot,
(And to requit with hazards hard
the love that he had got)
From Spayn with speed he did retorn,
and setting foet on land,
He put his cause in justice doem,
and noble princis hand.
Though in the yoek with fre consent,
the humble hart did fall,
The heavens stoed so out of tuen,
he gaet no grace at all ;
And clapped up full fast in hold,
a pryfnars part he playes,
Whear gryepping griefs and grevous groens
confuemd his gladfom dayes.
Whyels he a loef full long remaynd,
and out of daunger crept,
The dolfull dame in deepe dispayre
his absence foore bewept.
Yet great regard to promise paste
shee had, as world well wift ;

And therefore often wrong her hands,
when that her knight she mist.
But now beganne the boystrous blastes
to blow in bloudy brest,
And now the golfe of fighes and fobbs
burste out with great unrest,
For loe! one house helde both these wights,
yet both a fonder were,
And both in like displeasure stooode,
yea, ech of both in feare
Of princes wrath and worlds disgrace,
a heavy tale to tell,
A plague past hope of heavens blisse,
a torment and a hell,
That is without redemption sure;
but what should more be said:
Thus under locke and barred doores
these juwels safely laid,
They must abide the happie houre
that God appoints in skies,
And drinke up water sweete or fowre,
or what shall hap to ries.
The prision than did pleade their case;
the walles both deaffe and dom,
Did shewe by fines of freedome goone,
what sorrowes wear to come.
The shreeking owle in silent night
at window clapt his winges,
To threaten death, or badde succeffe
of fondrie doubtfull thinges.
No joyfull founde was heard with eare,
no newes of happie yeares;

No pleasure to the pinched harte,
in prision strong appeares.
Admit the lute with touch of hande,
a heavie domp doth fhoe,
A coelling comforte muficke brings
to wretches wrapt in woe.
No myrth with mourning moen may match,
for mifchiefe meafure lacks ;
And care confuems the minde of man,
as fire melts virgin waxe.
In filly fell, and fevrall place,
theſe two eſtates did fit,
Whoſe comming out did farre furmount
the compaſſe of their wit.
As long they ſpent their tickle time,
in teen and terror great :
So oft, God wot, of matters hard
in head did hammers beat.
Now hoping that the clouds would calme,
and ſtorms would ſtand at ſtay ;
Than looking whan the planets tornde
their courſe another way.
But ſhaken ſhipps in ſeas do ſinke
when furgis ries aloft,
And under waves (for want of ayde)
weake veſſels welter oft :
So that no hope of fuccour ſeemes
to come when tempeſts rage,
Except the Gods draw backe the plagues,
and winde and weather ſwage.
The preſent panges and parlous thoughts
that pearceth troubled minds,

Note.

Note.

Is knowne to none but such, I say,
 that lacke of freedome finds.
 A prisner beares a simple port,
 most glad to pleas and plye,
 As subiect to the keepers becke,
 and jellouse geillors eye :
 Now trasing out a wearie walke,
 now whisht and quiet stands ;
 Now downe on knees, now to the cloudes
 looks up with streatched hands :
 Now listning after happie newes,
 now nipt with sorrows old ;
 Now fore abasht and broughte in mues,
 now mirrie, stout and bold :
 Now riepe and reddie for to speake,
 now dumme and dare not store ;
 Now fearefull of ech sodaine sounde,
 and clap of evry dore :
 Now bent to beare and suffer wrong,
 now full repoesd on right ;
 Now faine to fawne on feeble folke,
 now setting all thinges light.
 These pashons stil awakes their spreets,
 that careful captives are,
 Such smart they taste, such breade they bite,
 that feeds on loves of care.
 Yea, some are farvd with chaunge of meates,
 yet touch they nere a dishe,
 But fits like *Tantalus* in hell,
 and wants what moste they wishe.
 These twaine, I troe, were not so usde,
 but yet, when best they sped,

On heavy morffells mixt with mone,
their hongrie stomacks fed.
No daye stooode free from Fortunes foile,
no houre but norrisht fear;
No season servde to folve the foers
of fooking sorrow thear.
No drinke could coole the furie hot
of thraldoms thirsty throte,
No pleasaunt verse nor dittie fraemde
to dollors dollfull note.
No booke nor storie might revive
their drowping dead delite,
For from the thoughtes of thirled hartes
are pleasures banisht quight.
To flowth, to sleepe and mirthlesse moods,
their dompishe dayes enclinde,
As from the clue of worldly cares
shoud threed of life untwiende.
Dispiefd the night, abhord the day,
and hated houre of birth,
Thought skorne of foode and cleane forfoke
the pleasures of the earth.
Would faine have lost both speach and breath,
and loekt when hartes would burst;
Beleevde they were in mothers wombe,
or els in cradell curst.
Though drousie dreede did death desire,
and grieve sought quick dispatch,
There was no parting from the place,
till daye dischargde the watch.
Wee cannot paye our borrowde breath
before thappointed howre;

The ende of strife nor staye of state
standes not in peoples powre.
The Gods that guides the heavens hie,
in secrete doth beholde
The fine and fleeting feeble course
of earth and massie molde.
The hart may heave, the breast may bloe,
the body fighe and swelt,
The face by open fines may show,
of privie passions felt,
But all these stormes have litle force
to ridde mans wretched dayes,
As by these parties plaine I prove,
throw torment fondrie wayes.
Well those from whom the Gods restraine
the skope and use of will,
Must bende the backe, and bowe the joynts,
to beare the burthen still :
And yet no toile, nor grieve so great,
but finds at length some eas ;
There followes after swelling flouds
a quiet calmie seas.
By meane of suite and labours long,
and gracious prince, in deede,
A sweeter soile these prisnars found,
that better bloud did breede ;
But kept a part as Fortune shapt,
and so in silent shade,
(As place and time did licence graunt)
a fresh complaint they made,
Of croked chaunce and straung extremes,
that fondred faithfull harts,

Whose fugged love was ever mixt
with baell and bitter fmarts ;
And never after like to meete,
nor fet ne eye nor vewe,
The one apon the other Lord,
a matter mitch to rewe.
Long in the broile of this conflict,
and battell of the minde,
They paste their time with bare beliefe
of better hap behinde ;
And wearing oute with waylings longe,
their weary life God wot,
And finding haven choked up,
where passage should be got,
At ancker under watch and warde,
in tossed barke they laye,
From whens there was no quiet means,
nor hope to scape away.
The lady now, for laste farewell,
betoke her selfe to teares,
And of dispaire in perfed brest,
a double porshon beares.
Her hollow cheeks and daesled eyes
declaerde her death was neere,
And bade her keepers to prepare
both fthrowding sheete and beere ;
For nature did denie her life,
her hart was tainted foe,
That cankred thought should come ful fone,
and make an ende of woe.
Her coulour changde her cheerefull lookes,
and countnaunce wanted spreet ;

Note.

To fallow ashes turnde the hue
 of beauties bloffoms sweete.
 And dreery dulnes had bespred
 the wearishe body throw :
 Ech vitall vaine did flat refuse
 to do their dutie now ;
 The bloud forfoke the wonted course,
 and backward gan retyre,
 And last the lims as cold and swarfe,
 as coells that wafts with fyre.
 The moisture taken from the tree,
 the leaves drops downe apace ;
 When sap dries up and faills the roote,
 the branches loes their grace.
 Some bowes you see do flourish fayre,
 and groes a goodly height,
 And some by frost and cold ayre nipt,
 and so are blasted streight.
 As evry fruite and floure in field
 do yeid to sodaine claps,
 So all that breathes with living soule
 are subject to mishaps.
 How should this dame desire to live,
 that hourelly wore away ?
 Who would not shedde some teares to see
 this tender twig decay ?
 What stony hart could suffer more,
 and bere with eeven hand,
 The weary weight of worldly woes,
 and whiske of whipping wand ?
 And when she saw her houre aproch,
 and death his dutie crave,

Note.

And she, amid her chieftest prime,
 must go to greedy grave,
She toke of worlde a noble leave ;
 and calling for a frende
(Who liveth yet, and can report
 how she did make her ende.)
She faide with loude and comely voice,
 O world ! I thee forsake ;
I have bin here a pilgrime longe,
 and now my leave I take
Of all thy pompe and pleasures vaine,
 that makes my senses blinde,
Whose glorie doth beginne with paine,
 and ends with grieve of minde.
In dongon deepe of deinty thoughts
 thou holdest evrye wight ;
And feeds their foolish fancies still
 with toyes and trifles light.
Thy prisnar was I borne to be,
 and *Adams* children all
(Like captivs here condemnde to die)
 must suffer for his fall :
But now the chains and lothsome lincks
 that lay on shoulders weake,
(And all the bands and cloggs of care)
 in shevers small shall breake ;
And I from cage shall mount to skies,
 more swift than bird with wing,
And flicker like a simple dove,
 where shining angels singe.
I bringe a badge and livrye both,
 that my good maister CHRIST

Did leave for fuch as beares his crosse
through foggs of worldly mieft.
Yea, fhaking of[f] this finfull foile,
me thincke in cloudes I fee,
Amonge the perfite chofen lambs,
a place preparte for mee.
Here is no home nor harbring houle,
but cabbens built on fande,
That evrye pirrie puffeth downe,
or ftill on props doth ftand.
Our fathers fpreeetes poffes in peace
the countrie that wee crave :
We are but ftangers far from hoem,
that nothing certayn have.
Thefe wear her words, and many moe,
which follows as she spoek :
I dyd (qd she) by bryttell lyfe,
O Lord ! thy wrath provoke ;
For which I now repent me foer,
and trufting to receave
Free pardon for my former fautes,
ear fowll shall body leave.
My faynt and feble veffayll frayll
fo fears thy juftice great,
That hyt appealls from curs of lawe
unto thy mercy feat.
I am but worms meat, wel I wot,
all fleash is nought but gras ;
To earth and ashes out of hand
muft all my pleasures pas.
I want the force, thou haft the myght,
to ftryve with death and hell :

Thou art the rock, the corner stoen,
the fountayne, and the well,
From whom the springs of lyfe must ron,
and unto whom again
The thyrsty foulls and hongry harts
for help do trodg a mayn.
Who hath byn washed in thy blood,
is whiter than the snoe :
O! let the streams and floed of grace
with favour on me floe.
In booke of lyfe let wryt, good Lord,
my name among the rest ;
That ordaynd wear, ear world was made,
to sleepe in *Abrams* brest.
Blot out the blemish of my brow,
that at the latter day
May strike the conshens with dispayre,
and cloked crimes bewray.
Gyve boldnes to the bashfull sprite
that fears from hens to flitte ;
Make hope and fayth now ferm to see
great God in glory fitte.
With closed hand than brest she knockt,
so gave a fighe and stayd ;
And then, conceivd some inward joy,
with cherefull face she sayd.
Do mourne no more, O trembling foule !
that knowes not where to staye ;
Come from the kaytiffe carrayne corps,
and cabben made of claye,
And looke upon the Lamb of God,
whose death thy randfome payd,

Note.

That blessed babe, the Virgins Sonne,
that borne was of a mayd.
Come, filly byrd, out of the den
where naught but darknesse is,
And looke on everlasting light,
and loving Lord of blis.
The lusts of flesh and worldly pomp,
I hope, are quentcht in me :
Throw faith a lone from fin and bond
I have escaped free.
And with that word, in fine of joye,
a falme full loud she fange :
The follemp noyes and found therof
thorowout the chamber range ;
And ending that, to prayer streight
of her own mind she fell.
The standers by, whose teares burst out
at this her last farwell,
Began to give her comfort than
of life and welfare both.
Yea, live I shall, and do right wel,
qd. she, I know for truth,
But that is in a nother world ;
the hope of this is gon :
And reason is it should be so,
for here there liveth none,
But sees the vainnes of our state,
and tastes such torments still,
That fondry tymes they wish them selves
from hence with right goodwill.
Heare is but toyle, and sweate of browes,
and endles labour found,

And nothing reapt but wretched wrak,
and broken sleepes unsound.
Where I shall go I feace from payne,
and so such joye posses,
As heart skarce thinks, nor head conceives,
nor tongue may well expres.
Than hold your peace ; knit up your talke,
and trouble not the spreet
That drawes from hence, and hopes it is
for better place more meet.
A lady thoe, that vertue lykte,
and there some credit had,
Replied and sayd, O noble dame !
in deed you are to fad ;
These panges shall passe, these fits shall fade,
and all these pashons dye,
As they have done, whan you full oft
in such like fort did lye.
O, madam ! speak no moer of that,
my tyme draws on (qd shee) ;
I shall not dye, but make exchange,
of breath and lyfe, I see.
The glas is run, the clock wyll stryke,
Death doth aproch a pace ;
My cours is don, the judge draws neer
to fyt apon my cace :
No longer heere I may abyde,
the packing day is come ;
Death byds me now unarm my selfe,
and heere the mortal drom
That calls me hence, as naked fuer
as to the world I cam :

The cours of Nature shoes me to[o]
that earth and dust I am.
The harrold of long home is sent
to fummon me in haft ;
Than stay me not, for in that poynt
boeth tears and words ye wast.
Yet ear I part, good friends, (qd shee)
behold what hoep I have,
And note what fayth and badge of Chrif
I cary to my grave.
And marke how I confesse with mouth
that Chrif hath shed his blood
For me, and those that earst in staet
of deepe damnation stood :
And by his pashon I am fav'd,
and not by my dezarts ;
But by the help of him that knowes
the thoughts of secret harts.
Now, staying heere, she loekt about,
and to a knight she spaek ;
And him desired with humble words
that he the paynes would take
To show the prynce what past her mouth.
O ! tell him, fyr, quod she,
This is the fute and laft request
that must be made by me
Unto his highnes, whose estate
our blessed Lord maintaine ;
And pray him to forgeve me now,
for I confesse hit playne,
I made a fault and sore offence
when I, against his will,

Estrang'd my self from his good grace,
for any hope or skill.
But from my byrth unto this day
my hart and thought was cleer
From breach of subjectes duetie fure ;
and I protest it heer,
I never ment nor purpoesd yet
in worde, in deede, nor thoght,
No harm (nor lodgd one yll confayt,
nor spark of evell foght)
To hym as God may witnes bear,
to that which nowe I speak,
Save nowe alas ! by oversight
of feble fancies weak.
I feell and fynde the pryce therof,
and suffer for the saem
An open check and privy plaeg,
and pyntching publik blaem.
I hoep his hyghnes haeth forgoet
the fault I dyd commit,
And as he is a noble prince,
in regall throen to sit,
And judge his subjects caufis all,
so hoep I of his grace
He wyll receyve my chyldren poer,
and help thear heavy cace.
O God forbyd ! for mothers fault,
the chyldren shuld a bye :
No grayn of grodgc, nor ground of gyell,
in gyltles baebs doth lye.
I do bequeath them nowe, qd. she,
unto the Princis hands,

Note.

In hoep the favour that they fynd
shall eas the fathers bands.
My nature shoes a moorning cheer
to part from them, God knoes ;
For chyldren fynd fmall comfort heer,
whan hens the mother goes,
If God move not the Princes mind,
to pitie thear estate.
Now as this lady dyd at large,
about her baebs debate,
Uppon her deer boght jewel than,
she cast her only thoght,
Yea, for whose sake and great good wyll,
she was in troble broght ;
And pawfing on this matter throwe,
a hevy fyghe she gave,
O ! good fir knight, sayd she to me,
a thyng of you I crave.
Commend me to my worthy frend,
and byd hym comfort take,
And hoep in God and princes grace,
thogh I do world forsake.
He may do wel, and fredom get,
but me ye shall not meet,
Tyll from the cave of pampred fleashe,
departs his gronyng spreet.
Whyles lyfe I had I honord him,
and fafly kept my vowe ;
As lyfe dyd bynd me his in all,
fo death doth lowfe me nowe
From hym and all my worldly joyes.
But thogh my frend I leave,

On hye, whear dwels a greater frend,
 (if hoep not me disseave,)
I trust to see his baebs and hym ;
 and thogh much greef hit is,
To leave them heer in bitter baell,
 yet, noet, I goe to blis.
Whear is no mind of combros caers,
 nor cause of forowes known :
O ! tell hym that above I hoep
 theas storms shalbe oer blown.
And as a skrowll is lapped up,
 yea so shall all thyngs heer
(When fowll shalbe immortall maed)
 unto our vewe a peer.
No foener of the fowll she spoek,
 but foddayn chang began,
In loeks and lymys of deadly shoe,
 with collor paell and wan.
The eyes did staer, the body streatch,
 the strength and force dyd fayll ;
The teeth they chattered in the cheeks,
 the hands dyd quaek and quayll ;
The mouth dyd foem, the head dyd shaek,
 the fleashe hyt quivred fast ;
The feet waxt cold, the face dyd sweate,
 full swyft the polsis past.
The hart dyd heave and beat in brest,
 the breath lyk earth dyd sent ;
At eares and noes the styeffled goest,
 and vittall lyfe foght vent :
Thogh gasping breath broght passions on,
 and gript her hart full hard ;

A right figure
of death.

A pattern of
death.

Yet showd she throw thoes sharp assaultes,
to frend a great regard ;
And calling for a boxe of ryngs,
among them choes she won,
In which was fet, by conning aert,
a ritche and preshoes ston.
Hold ! carry this, qd she, good syer,
to my deer noble knight ;
He can remember what that stoen
presentes unto his sight.
The other token that I send,
hit is a weyghty ryng ;
Best lykt and dereft boght, God wot,
of any earthly thyng.
And when ye shall gyve hym this gyft
desyer hym well to mynd
The lyttell imps, the pretty foules,
the baebs I leave behynd :
And byd hym bryng them up in fear
of God and prince, I saye :
Loe ! that is al I do requier,
of hym my dyeing daye.
I have no gold to send my baebs,
but blessing I them gyve,
Which God confyrm with grace good stoer,
as long as they shall lyve.
O ! yet thear is another ryng,
which loe ! my love must se,
Whear is my picture : death I mean ;
and tell my friend from me,
That I as cold, and sensles toe,
shalbe in littell space,

As is that shadde, dom and deaff,
and spreetles shaep of face.
This don, she tornd her hed a fyed,
and baed them all faerwell.
Twear good, quod she, in fyen of death,
I hard the passyng bell,
For futch as lyve may pray the whiel
and knoe, when bell doth towll,
Into the bowells of the earth,
the boddy parts from fowll.
Yet meet they shall, when trumpet fownds,
and that the dead aries,
And boeth together shall ascend,
I hoep, to starry skyes.
Wyth this began the battayl feers
betwen her lyef and death :
Lyek goest she lay, whyells hard dyd groen,
and mouth gaapt wyed for breath.
Than sayd she, Lord ! in to thy hands
I do commend my spreet ;
And so her self closes'd up her eyes,
and hyd her head in sheet,
And went away, lyk enfantt yong,
clean voyd of storm or raeg ;
Or lyk a boddy fawlls a sleep,
that can not speak for aeg.
Thus breathles laye this lady nowe,
lyk weyghty lomp of claye,
(That earst had lyef and feelyng force)
and past lyk flowre a way.
But whan the nues of this was broght,
unto her playffeers eares,

With roering voyce and blobbred eyes,
 thear goeshed owt futch teares
That wytnest well with owtward fyens
 what woe he felt within,
And truely told when she dyd end,
 his dollor dyd begin.
Bereft of sleep, and robbd of rest,
 he roemed up and down,
And cast of[f] weeds of worldly pomp,
 and clapt on moornyng gown.
No eas nor pleasures could posses,
 nor feell the taest of meat,
Resolvd to pyen and starve him self,
 his greefs they wear so great.
No counsell could him comfort long,
 and styll aloen he drue,
To morn and moen, to howll and crye,
 and make complaynt a nue :
And worn away with wofull fyghes,
 when sorrow helped not,
At leyngth the lyef must be sustaynd,
 with som releef, ye wot.
But howe he takes this mischeef yet,
 and howe the matter goeth,
Hyt passeth farre my reatch and wyt
 to judg, I tell you troeth.
His lady gon, as you have hard,
 when dayes and yeeres wear spent
In thraldom long, yet after that
 was better fortune sent ;
For into princes grace again
 he cam by bleffyd chance,

And so he lyvs in open world,
 whear vertue may aduance
Both him and many thousands moer,
 that noble lyves doo lead,
And wyely walk with upright myndes,
 and stepps of honour tread.
Loe! heer, you daems of hy renown, .
 a ladyes death fet owt ;
Whose lyef for fayth full feaw shall fynd
 that seeks wyed world abowt.
To God and prince repentant fuer,
 to world a myrrour bright :
Whearfoer with tong and true report
 refownd her prays a ryght.

FINIS.

The Roed made by Syr William Druery, Knight, into Skotland, from the East Seas to the West (with sundry Gentlemen of good calling) for the reformation of such causes as the Queens Majestie and her Councel thoght convenient. In the xiii year of the raign of our soveraigne Lady Queene Elizabeth.

THE NAMES OF THE CAPTAINES AND GENTLEMEN IN
HIS COMPANY.

Syr Thomas Manners.	M. Michell Carye.
Syr George Cary.	Captaine Carye.
Syr Robert Constable.	Captaine Carvill.
Syr Jerome Bowes.	Captaine Aufstell.
M. William Knowls.	Captaine Edington.
M. Henry Cary.	M. Edmond Varney.
M. Robert Knowlls.	

My Lord of
Suffex journeys
I set out in my
second book.

MY Lord of *Suffex*, now lord chamberlayne, having finished two famous and notable roeds into *Skotlande*, which I have written of (as chargeable as paynfull, and of no smal credit and pollicy) rested a feason at *Barwyck*, by reason of a sicknesse taken, by overmuch travell of body and minde, in the service rehearsed; and reposing him self in that towne for the benefite of health, thought necessary (in the present exploits and service expected) to institute another Generall for the execution of such matters as he him self would gladly have taken in hande, if sicknesse had permitted: and

because eche gentleman fouldiour and feuerall bandes should duetifully obey (in all points and warlike order) the nue Generall chosen for this purpose, my Lord of *Suffex* made an oration, in such forme and manner as throughly explained the whole substance of the service, the unfuretie of the season, the difficult dealing of divers aduersaries, and uttered the excellencye of an oratour. At whoes elloquence the heerars rather stod astonyed than unfatysfied in any poynt or parssell, wherein he opened the bowells of rebellyon, the practies of enemies, and subborning of traytors; and earnestly perswaded every honest mynd to be myndfull of his prince and countrey, in the lybertie wherof boeth lyfe and lyving is alwayes to be offered: after which oracion, as custome is (for service past, and things to come) he made these knights that heere are mentioned, *Syr William Drury*, *Syr Thomas Manners*, *Syr George Care*, and *Syr Robert Constable*; and placing the Generall in full authoritie he committed them to God, and the good conduct of their chieftaine: then presently, with professed obedience, each man desired to do a dayes service, to venter his lyfe, to shed his bloud, or shew his dutie. Whereupon, and as great and weighty cause moved, my Lord of *Suffex* commanded them to march forward; and so they did, and made that night a greater march than was looked for, and yet no lesse speede than was needeful: by which forwardnesse, sodain exercises of armes (and a brute blowen abroad of a more sooner departure) the enemies wer discouraged and hindred of their hoep, and our men made masters of the felde, and possesst in a maner their wish and desired hap: at the least, taking aduantage of the time, they prevented the pushe of a perillous and present pollicie, and avoyded the

danger of a troublous time to come. For the enemie, regarding our readinesse and desire of encounter with them, retyred so fast backward, that all their labour was lost which they tooke in hand before. And now were they somewhat abashed that before used overmuch boldnesse; yet in doubtfull ballance stood the weight of this journey, considering what followed by the fyennes or falshood of double meaning friends (beside the dangers insident to the hazards of Fortune). Our people, being thought at the first to be great in number, were suffered to march where they pleased; but the enemy advertised of our small power, not only like chafed bores began to pluck up the bryffells, but also bruted abroad we were taken in a pitfall and had neede of a treble company to accomplish the exploit taken in hand. And after our power had passed Edenbrogh towards the force of the adversaries, the secret practisers of mischief in the town set suddenly on our lackeys; and such of the traine as could not conveniently follow the camp with expedition, were in danger to fall in the fury of those bloodsuckers that delighted in slaughter, who fought by subtiltie to bring poore weaklings to the mercy of the sword. But this boldnes and audacious dealings hindered no whit the hope of our Generall, nor brake no peece of our purposed matter; for our campe, though it was but little, tooke great regard of their safetie and honour, and knew that the enemies espials slept no more than their fleights; nor nothing was kept more awoken than their common consent for our destruction, which made us so vigilant and careful, that every man was bent to beare of the brunt of this busines to the uttermost, with the pollicie of head, perrell of body, or hazard of life, and kept them

Note.

Note.

felves so fast linkked to gether, that it seemed a thing impossible to break their order or daunt their corage, being resolved to trye, by sword and service, the worst or best that fortune could doo; and so marched onward as boldly and with as great a show as nothing could have bin a let and impediment to their purposed enterprises. At the view wherof the enemies were not only amazed, but likewise striken in such feare they wist not what was best to be don; and finding their devices disciffred and over taken, (and their force and people but weakly guided) they invented to cast another compas, and so to frame by falshood and treason a readier way for the execucion of their wyeles and wicked wils; as hereafter you shall perceive whan I come to touch the perticulars. Our camp neither spared paynes, nor no exerfies of armes all this season, and so approaching many places on the fodaine, they made the enemy retyre and rayfed the siege of sundry townes, as *Glaske* and others, which were to long to reherse, yet alwayes as mildly and quietly as was possible in their passage outward they behaved themselves; defferring the punishing of false brethren and deceivable enemies, til the retorne of the camp homeward agayn, if God so shuld suffer. And being masters of the field and emboldned to martch forwardes by the happy suckceffe of their labours, they made as great speede as they might to be at *Dombrittain*, there to finishe, by fight or favorable fortune, the greattest hazard and toyle of this dangerous journey. And now was it come to that utter extremitie, that eyther the enemy must deeply dissemble and worke some treasonable train, or openly stand at defence and point of the sword. Wherupon they made a show and signe of great amitie; and cloking pretended mallice under

The Duke
Chatilleroi
was at this
siege, and
went away
discoraged.

a parle and comunicacion of peace, they seemd to mislike no matter that was ministred. As though they agreed to have an unitie and reformation for civell wars and disorder crept in the commen wealth, by caveling and quarrellous people, and offring, in a maner, all securitie and trust for the fatte meeting of the lord *Flemming* and Syr *William Drury*, who should thorowly talke and debate of thinges than most necessary and convenient (to be amended, or at the least wise spoken off). So our generall condescended to see what fruit this flourishing frendship wold yeld, and geving occasion of good liking and no suspicious handling of this busines, Syr *William Drury* prepared him self to go a part from his power, offring to be armed or unarmed; alwayes providing if any of the enemies had isshued out of the towne (for a trayne and false practies) he had a sufficient band ready to resist al mischeeves that might follow. So, as the marshall manner is of meetings for such purpose, the Lord *Fleming* and our generall preased in place, as al kinde of doubtles and dangers stood voyd and clere of suspicion, and free from all feare. But the lord *Fleming*, contrary to our hope and against the law of armes, by cautel and futtle fort, had clofly layd abayte to betray syr *William Drury*, or caused twain of his soldiars, at the very instant of meeting, to shoote of their peeces; and thinking by the death of the general, a general disorder would follow to further the good fortune of the faithles flock and disceitful dealars. And, in deed for truth, our generall was no sooner in daunger upon trust, but this treason was put in prooffe and present practise, for two severall shot wear sodainly discharged ful in the face of syr *William Drury*, and the enemies missed but a little the only mark they shot at. Notwithstanding, Syr

William Dreury (as one resolved to revenge injury and falshed) stoed so stoutly to his owne businesse, that he shot of both his dagges, to the discourage and infamye of this unlordly enterpryse, and with a lowd voice made a vow, that this leawd fact should not long escape unrevengid. The Lord *Flemming*, like a fox to the hoel, withdrew him to his hold, and our General came orderly, and without harm, from this hatefull hazard and unacustomed entertaynement of wars. And being retired in safety, and the matter wel digested, a marvelous mormour and furious talke arose in our campe among the whole multitude, and every honest heart hated this haerbrayne and hasty disorder, harbored and hatched in the bowels of a crokadyll. And surely this powder made such a smodder and smoek, that fundry stowt stomacks were sturred to anger, and set on a very flame, by the heat therof; and one of the cheefe (and best credit next the General) stept out and declared, that it was a dishonour to suffer a Generall to so worthy a band (and in the service of so mighty a prince) so used and deryded, and for that no such filthy fact should sleep in silence, nor passe unpunished, he would leave to the posteritie an example therof for ever. Wheron he earnestly defyred the Generalls lycence, that he might send an harrold of armes to the Lord *Flemming*, to know the cause of this unwarlyke demenour; and further (qd. he), it becommeth better myne estate (bicause I am now under this Generall) than the Generall himselfe, to try out this quarrell by combat and defiaunce of feyght. And more noble it was, that a gentilman soldiour should stand in those questions, than a Generall, confidering his calling and office. To the which offer and good perswasion the Generall gave this answere: I have, my deere frynd Syr

Note.

Georg Care, great thanks to geve you in this behalfe; albeit, for the greatnes of your minde my thankes is to small a recompence, but it standes me uppon to seartch owt theas matters to the uttermoest, and so I wold, wear not my commiffion and charge, as ye know, otherwayes to be employed: yet, fens your fuet is so reasonable (and the hoel company and law of armes allows hit), I grant you your request, and thearin doo as best shall seem to your birth and estimacion. Syr *George Cary* (desirous of honour, and to see tretchery rebuked) straighwayes devised a letter, to be sent owt of hande whyles thinges wear freshe in memory, and wrote futch matter as he mynded to stand unto what ever shold happen: the effect of whoes letter folows, word by word as the writtar him selfe drue it owt, and delivered hyt to the harrald in the prefens of a nomber.

¶ *The letter of Syr George Cary.*

Lord Fleming, if eyther your byrth or bringing up had wrought in you a noble mynd, or estimacion of credite, hardly would you have so much forgotten and stayned your honour, as in a parley of late with our Generall you dyd. At whom vildly and unhonorably shoeting, you falced that assurance of warre, which soldiers submit themselves unto; and trayned him to your treason under trust, a thing heretofore not accustomed, nor presently to be allowed of. He, assuredly pretending your owne and your freends good, commoditie to your countrey, and quietnes to the state, twyfe abased and submitted hym selfe, commyng to confer with you thereof; but your pryd, joyned with a harmeful meanyng to those that you professe best unto, and selfe-wilful vaine glory, without cause why, refused that whiche

reason and honour commaunded you to have done. Therefore, because his calling is presently with his charge better then yours, and myne not inferior, I sommon you reasonably to excuse that fault supposed to bee yours, or els to mayntayne that trayterous acte with your person against myne in fyght, when, where, or how you dare. Otherwyse I wyll baffull your good name, founde wyth the trumpet your dishonour, and paint your pictor with the heeles upward, and beate it in despite of your selfe. In the meane time I attend your answere. From Glasco, the xxii of May, 1570.

Subscribed, GEORGE CAREY.

¶ *The copie of the Lord Flemings answer.*

George Cary. I have received your brainlesse letter, making mention of my false and treasonable dealing against your General in shoeting under trust, so vildly against my honor and trueth, trayterously trayned him under my trust; which is altogether false and untrew. And, howbeit, your Generall came by the howse of *Dunglas*, by my appointment, which I suffered, and I appointed one place of meeting, fixe men of eyther partie; which he refused, and he departed, and certen of his companie came bragging up the river fyde towards the howse, vewing the fame, and the ground thereabouts, shoeting your hargabous against the fame, I coulde doo no les but present you with such as I had. Whereas you write of your Generals calling to be presently better then myne, and yours not inferiour, when your General challengeth me therof, I shall geve answer: and as for you, I will not be inferiour to a better then you, or any soldiour under your Generals charge. Whereas you sommon me,

as you call it, reasonably to excuse that fault supposed to be myne owne, or els to mayntayne that trayterous acte with my perfon against yours, you shall wit, I have, gentlemen of honor, fervant foldier to me as ye are to your Generall, which may be your fellowes, shall defend the fame against you and your falce and untrew invented writing; and were not the charge I present, or how sone I can be releved of the fame, I shuld lowly my perfon to mete you fix English myles fro any other perfon. How be it, ye be but one foldier, assure your self from this day forth, I wil not receive no such vain invented message, for I have littell to do with English men: ye may rayle upon my honorable name as ye please. You shall have as honorable gentilmen as your selfe against you feighting. Take this for aunswere.

JOHN L. FLEMING.

Lord Fleming. Often the Flemings after noon answers smelleth more of wine then wit. But as to that common cryme, the custome of their country yeldeth them part of pardon, so your common acquaintance with the same condition known to be very great, shal to me somewhat excuse your witles writing, wherin first you disalow my right recital of your trayterous dealing, by terming it false and untrew. For answer know this: the truth my pen hath written, by the witnes of a number; and my hand, I vow, shall maintaine the fame before the world at all times: but you, in denying it, have both falseli and unjustli lied in your throt, and dare neither defend nor disprove that in dedes, which in words you have don. Wheras you writ that our General passed Dunglas, by your appointment, which you suffered, therin you do manifestli say, unhonorabli, and untruly, for

that you had no knowledge of our first coming, but saluted us with your shot, and we likewise scirmed with your men, even at their own strength, until we viewed the ground about at our pleasure. And, touching the appointment of fix of eyther part, easly that may be known to be a plaine lye, seing we had neyther parle nor conference with you before, to appoint place or meeting. But wheras you say you could do no lesse but present us with such as you had, therin you confesse and acknowledge the dishonor and treason that I charged you withal, taking upon your self that fault which I supposed to have ben of your servants; for our Generall retired his company far from him. And his trumpet being with you, approched him self alone to have parled, when, under trust, you discharged two hargubusses against him, an acte rather seemely for a cowardly traytour, then one that professeth to be a souldier. Finally, whereas you let me wit that you have gentlemen of honor, servant souldiers to you, that may be my felowes, which should defende the chalenge that toucheth so nere your selfe, as with honor you should not have refused it. First, I thinke skorne to be any wayes inferior to you, though but a souldier, to[o] honorable a name for your beyng better in birth, and unstayned with reproche, as you have ben. Secondly, I have more and as good gentlemen under my conduct, as you have under your charge, whiche shall aunswere as many as you can bryng, yf with number ye meane to combat, and wyll put them to that which you dare not do your selfe. But assure you, my quarrel shal remayne everlasting, except the prooffe of your owne person agaynst myne may ende it; and, when you shall dare come out of your crowse nest, I wyl be redy to ryde an hundredth

Skottish miles, to meete with you in any indifferent place : and untill that tyme I shal account you devoyde of honestie, and honor, unworthy to marche upon groundes, or to keepe companie with men. From Hamelton, the 29 of May, 1570.

Subscribed, GEORGE CAREY.

Thogh many wayes were wrought, by message and threatnings, to move the Lord *Flemming* to defend with battayl the faute and folly committed, yet he put on such a vizard of rebuke and shameles countenance, that he faced out the matter, and shifted of the combat by such filly sleights and fitteltie, that all the awdience might wonder at the weaknes of his corage ; and the enemies, clapping them selves in savegard, gave an occasion to our men to loes no further tyme about remediles matters. For ther could nothing gro on this busines at that season but cold and baer skyr-mishes, neyther honorable nor worthy the tarrieng for, as by tryall fell out afterwarde. Theas things ended, and order taken for our retorn from *Donbryttaine*, the camp marched homewards ; and comming to *Glaske*, wher our power repofed them selves a whiel, and either than or soen after they besieged *Hammulton* Castell and tooke hit : whearin there was the bishop of Saynt *Andros* son, Lord *Davi*, son to to the Duke of *Shattilleroy*, and sundry gentlemen of *Scotland* ; and this castell subdued, and blown up, was a terrour to the rest, that as yet our camp had not viseted : and, for the more sien of victory, the generall broght from this castell a dozen good bras peeces which now remain in England. Eatch thing randered, and put under the commandement and plesure of our generall at *Hammulton*, from thens the camp marched to many placis

Battred and
randered.

of importance, and overthruw houfis and pallacis that belonged to any notorios enemie, or falsefyer of promes and fidelitie. Among the rest was the Dueks house bornt, a staetly and delicaet palace, and three or foure myles about the faem was ranfackt and spoyled with flaem and fier. A pyell called *Netherrey*, the Lord *Seactons* house, was by the enimies fortified; and yet the lady of the castell was glad to make humble petition on her knees for the Generals favor, and, after her fuet and submission, she kissed the keyes of the aforefayd feat, and delivred them from her: by which humility she found favor at the Generals hand, condicionally that a baron shuld be bound with her, that this castel shuld ever heerafter be at the devotion of the Queenes Maiestie, our mestres, and so the band was maed and order taken. Another place, called *Commernawd*, the Lord *Flemmings* Chery. cheef house, was yelded upon great fuet maed to the Generall, who took the lyk bande and order thearfore as was taken of *Netherrey*. The Lady *Liddington*, great with child, mistrusting her self (or her husbands double dealings towards our cuntry), in great fear began to flee; but *Syr William Drury*, heering therof, sent her word he came not to make warres with women, but rather to sho pitie to the weake and comfortles; and thereupon she stayd and had no further harm. I have kept this in stoer, as a thing to be throwly consithered, wich is the comming to *Litchoe*, and the usaeg therof don only for a speciall poynt of severitie, and to terrefie the stobborn stomacks and inconstantnes of proud people. The Generall, havyng entred the towne, called for the Provost, and commanded him to prepare with all expedicion to receive a just plaege and correction, thorowe the whole towne, for treason, and unpardonable offencis

Provision was
made for the
preservation of
ficke persons,
men, women,
and children.

committed. And deeclaring that the inhabitantes thereof had suckored and supported traytors to our contrey, contrary to the leags and quietnes of the realms of England and Skotland, and for that cawse he was fully resolved to overthrow that town and receptakul of traytors, and so commaunded eatch captayn and foldiour, what so ever they were, under his charge to se due execution on that which he purposed; and takyng good regarde that the goods thereof shold not be possfest by Englishe souldiours, nor lost or cast away by vehemencie of fyer, he wyllled the Provost to apoynt a place convenient to bring the sayd goods unto, whiche might be employed to the Skottes mens use and commoditie. And the Generall grauntid, uppon his owne corttezy, evry noble mans lodging and captayns howse to be free from bornyng. The enemies all this season beholding a far of the suckfes of theas matters; thus, as the day and owre approtched for this determined execution, caem the Earll *Morton*, as intercessor, to entreat and sue for pardon, yf favour might be porchased: and the Earll *Morton* broght before the Generall a multitude of wayling people, whoes mourning and pittious cryes was perffing and importunaet. The Generall, heering thear requestes, answered, For many cawses the town ought to be destroyed, confythering howe divers enemies (whoes prowde practises wear not to be suffred) had allwayes thear a common resort and conference; and further, quod he, the corttezy that is shewed to such placis of repaire hath emboldned the rest of *Skotlande* to use oepen violence, and secrete villanies, to the prejudice of Gods glory, hinderance of the weall publik, and breach of good lawes and pollecies. Wherefore, sayd he, to the warnyng of thowfands, and example of many, hit was fytt and moest meet

(in that cace of exftremitie) to race out futch monumentes of mifchiefes, and harbor of wicked confpiracies, and efpecially that towne, havyng crakked credit in a blöddy aëtion before, deferved now doble affliction. Well, yet notwithstanding, for all theas earneft and threatnyng wordes of *Syr William Drury*, the people of all fortes fo preafed about hym, and maed futch pytefull cryes and noyes (with children lyeng on the ground fukking of theyr mothers breafte,) that he was inwardly moved to rue on thear wretched efaet; and albeit in fundry fervefis before, divers Skots men had naghtelly difcharged fertayne fhott at him (paradventure by the praëties of fom thear in prefence), yet was he content, uppon futch condicions as he thoght good, to receive the towne of *Lithco* to mercie. And ordayned, by fuer bande and promes, that the Provoeft and cheefeft of goverment thear fhuld followe the camp, and att all tymes apeer when they wear called for at *Barwyk*, and thear to submit them felves, their towne, and goodes to the clemencie of the Queenes Highnes, or futch order as my Lord of *Suffex*, by her confent, thoght neceffary: to which bands and condicions they of *Lithco* agreed, and for that thear regent was flayn, and noen than intituted (to whom they had geven fayth of alleagance) they confefed that noen might commaund them any way without licence of him that bound them in this fervitude, to whom boeth thear promes and obligation was paffed; and at this day, as by their apparancies haeth ben proved, they are not difcharged of this homage and duety. To knit up theas matters (and revenge fom injuries the Duke *Chattilleroy* had offred) a howfe, of the Dukes in *Lytcho*, was blowen in the ayre with powlder. *Lithco* broght in obedience, as you have hard, unto fome other parts of

Homage.
A noet of
jorney to
kenell.

Sir Thomas
Manners, and
two nombers
under oen
ascient, of
footmen was
sent before to
stay the gates.

importance they martched, and casting the worst of mischeefes that might fortune (consythering their small number, and the great practises were gon about to supplant their doynge) they thoght not good to enter *Edenbroeghe* without standing so sure on their garde that they needed not to doubt any double or crooked measure : which sure handlyng of the matter dyd not onely shew the devisers thereof to have good conduyt and experience, but in deede also eschewed an inconvenience, as yll as a mischeef. For the enemies had fynely, by frawd and conning, wrought sutch a feat (thorowe the device of a fray to be maed in the suburbes) that a great murther had burst out sodaynly, and no small blodshed had ben set a brotch by the saem, yf God and good gyding of the people had not avoyded these harms, and eminent danger. And, to be playne, fom inward moshon moved the Generall so suspicioufly, that he sent to the gaets at their first arrivall, and there prevented the porposed conspiracie, and no soenner entryng the towne, but our whole power kept them selves in order to cleer the streetes, and commaund the inhabitantes the better : so consuming the nyght, they stood on their garde as the cace required. And when the morning was come, *Syr William Drury*, (smellyng out a pad in the straw, and a fowl flaem covertly hidden,) demaunded justice and strayt ponishment for sutch thyngs as he would truely lay to the chargis of some of the townes men ; and told them, yf remedy were not soen provided, and fatisfaction maed for the follies and owtraeg committed, he would be quickly revenged, to the displeasure and shaem of all the mainteyners of this mad and mischeevous presumption : after which words, and whan things wear wayed to the weyght of the cawse, the towne delivered the Generall sertayne

malefactours to be executed and ordred by his discrecion : he, feing their submission, mercyfully and frankly sent them away to their captaynes ; and so these broylls were pacified; and broght to a better fraem and uniformitie. Now heer is fomwhat to be spoken of in the happy suckses of this littell bande, if therein the disdainfull misconstrued not my mean- yng, and wresting troeth to flattery (by consayt of envious glorious myndes) myght mormur at the vertue and valor of thoes who this matter toucheth. Wherfore I commit the judgement of thys journey to futch as haeth ben, or would be, in the lyke hazarde and service ; yet mynde I not to leave owt any poynt, or peece, that may redownd to these soul- diours renowme and estimacion, becawse I would have their prayeses equally distributed among the favourers of vertue and deservers of good fortuen. I have a littel seen, and some- what red, but seldome hard and known a companie so united and knit together, so obedient to discipline of warre, and so peasable in all respectes and porposes : yea, fuerly hit is to bee proved that some of good byrth and calling refused no servisable labour and toyll, yf the Generall but onely maed a baer syen or showe of hys determinaet mind ; and throw owt the camp, with a mutual love and inclinacion, they seemd to bear a general burthen, as everye member thear had ben a naturall framed instrument to the use of one body. And to foster and norishe this crue of men in the marshall arte and rules of warre, was thear prescribed good and quiet orders, and a proclamacion made that no man should take any thing by violence, nor without pleasying the people for the fame : and further, if any found himself greeved, he was commaunded to repayre for redres to the General, and his officers ; whose care and studdy was

Two faulters
openly
ponished.

always redy to minifter iustice, as thear whole doinges declared, and namely at *Lythcoe* and *Glaske*, whear two English fouldiours were severaly ponyshed. The one in deed, by intercession of the lordes and gentilmen, was saved from hanging, and the other was whypped, as the merites of the man dyd require.

Nowe, having sheawed you the manner and order of this campe, and touched lightly in breefe the substance of such matter as I think woorthy the penning, I wil shew you of their martching homwards. When they had rested a whyle in *Edenborough*, they went towards *Seaton*, the Lorde *Seattons* cheefe house, where the lady of that soyle in lyke forte (as before is mencioned) presented the keyes of that place to the Generall; who made not onely a redelyverie thereof, but also gave the lady the howse, and all that belonged thereunto, to her great contentation and his no little good report. A jorney after this was taken in hande to *Anderweeke*, with intent to overthrowe the same also; yet on the fuet and bondes of divers gentilmien, the place was spared from spoyle and ponishment, and the offenders receyved to remission. And than as occasions fought to fynishe their travayle, they drue neere the borders of Englande, spending about these things but xxiiii dayes at the uttermost, a jorney to be noted, and worthy to be registred in perpetuall memorie. Here may you beholde what a wyllinge and valiant companie may do in little tyme, and what overthrowes and plagues are sent by Gods provision, to such as breaketh the boundes of blessed orders, and forgettes the duetie to common wealthes and christianitie. Thus in simple proes I have drawn out this service, not mynding therewith to elevate, or poeffe up

with overweenyng, the myndes of any one perfon that this
geveth commendation unto, nor meaning to difgrace no
enimie, for that feafon agaynft whom this journey was made.
But this is written only to fet foorth, truely and playnely,
the actes and affayres of our tyme, that fuch as lift to
argue and reason thereof fhall be the better in-
ftructed of every doubt or certaintie be-
longing to fuch a difputation.
So fare you well.

FINIS.

SYR SYMON BURLEIS TRAGEDIE,

Who lived in the xi. yeer of King Richard the
fecond. Loke Frozard, the laft
part, fo. 108.

AM I of blud, or yet of byrth, fo bafe,
O *Baldwin* ! now that thou forgetft my name ?
Or doth thy pen want cunning for that cafe,
Or is thy fkill or fenfis fawllen lame ?
Or doft thou feare to blafe abroad my fame ?
O ! fhew fume caufe wherfore I fit in fhade,
And why is thus my Tragedy unmade,
Who thinkes great fkorne in filence ftill to fleepe,
And one whose fall a world may waile and weepe.

Did *Bocace* live, or *Lidgate* wright again,
Sume hope were left my lantern fhuld have light :

If any one, that had a poettes vayne,
 Knew halfe my life, or had my cace in fight,
 In collors fyne I should be painted ryght.
 But gaping grave, and gnawing wormes below,
 Snapt *Bocace* up, and *Lidgate* long ago ;
 And poettes sleepe within *Parnassus* mount,
 Wher lo! of me they make but small accounte.

O, *Bawldwin* ! yet, what blot was in my brow,
 That made the[e] blush, or feare to writ my fall ?
 With what offence can world cum charge me now,
 That I may not for *Baldwins* favour call ?
 Yea, durst I claime the helpe of poettes all,
 I dought their skill could skarcely show, in deede,
 In this behalfe the cunning that doth nede.
 Well, *Baldwin*, well, if hedeles men might chide,
 I know what check and blame shuld *Baldwin* bide.

How couldst thou reade in storyes any while,
 And so skip oer my life, and destney straunge ?
 Thou knowst how hap one me full long did smile,
 And that my state stood free from dout of chaunge :
 I spronge not forth, of such a simple graunge,
 That I should dwell in dust from mynde of men,
 Whilst others are set out by arte of pen.
 Thou dost me wrong : wherfore the wound to heele
 (That sloth hath made,) to Churchyard I appeele.

Syr Simon
 Burley com-
 plains to him
 that knows
 what forow
 meanes.

Let him be judge of all my doinges throw,
 Let him unfould my fortune, sweete or fower ;
 Yea, unto him I tell my forowes now,

Whose refteles hande is writing every hower,
And fo I leave the[e,] Baldwin, in thy bower
Of lawrell leaves, where thou maift fit and fee,
At open vew, what Churchyard writes of mee.
But erre he takes in hand this worke of myne,
I tell my tale with weping blubbring eyen.

Geve eare, good frind, and here what I fhall fay,
And for the while fet all affaires afide ;
But fuer, I feare, to[o] fhort I finde the day
To fhew my grefe, that hardely can I hide,
Yet throw I go, and hope with happy tide ;
Though haples wind hath blowen my barke about,
And daungers deepe did drive my dayes in dout,
Since calme is cum, and quiet eafe I have,
Heare his complaint that late crept out of grave.

Noet.

How fhould I fpeake, that houlds my head in hand,
(Which, fencelles fkalpe, both life and fpeech hath loft) ?
Yet out of breft, though hedles here I ftand,
I may blafe forth the greves of groning gofte :
As from the feas, that is with torments tofte,
Coms roring noyes, when calmes ful quiet are,
So breath I out from breft my broyling care.
Though head be of, a fmoking fume procedes
From quaking neck, and gushing vaines that bledes.

Though dead
men fpeak not,
there is a
meane to utter
griefes by
degrees.

Heare him, I fay, whose bowels fpeakes alone,
And wants in dede both ufe of tunge and wit ;
Heare him that muft by arte cum make his mone,
And lackes therefore the members meete and fit ;

Heare him that grones, and howles, from hollow pit ;
 Here him whose voice doth give a hollow fownd ;
 Heare him that long lay rotten in the ground ;
 Here him whose plainte may pearse the lofty skyes,
 And for thy ayde, and English verſus cryes.

No freindes
 nor birth can
 bere of miſ-
 chaunce.

As naked, fuer, as he was lapte in shete,
 With deadly lookes and grifely staring hare ;
 Not like a man, but like a monſtrous ſprete,
 Sent from the pit, to whiſper in thyne eare,
 And make the muſe of world an other where :
 For here, as tyme doth ſoftly ſteale away,
 So life and lande and all thinges doth decay :
 No birth, nor blud, nor ſtocks of frends prevayles,
 When ſturdy ſtorms ſtrikes down our ſtately fails.

A man dayly
 affaulted with
 forows, yeldes
 of force to
 deſtruction.

The ſhip muſt ſway aſide, or ſinck in feas,
 That ſhaken is with ſhocking ſurges ſtill :
 The greneſt gras that grows in goodlieſt leas
 To partching heat muſt yeld by reaſons ſkil :
 What ſtone can ſtay, that rowlith down the hil ;
 What fote can ſtand that fortune dayly trips ;
 What living wight can ſkape her ſkorging whips ?
 No ſoner out of ſhell, or mothers lap,
 But ſubject ſtraight to forow and miſhap.

The life that fume moſt ſweetly do embrace,
 To trobled teares doth turn ; or we be ware
 We are in love with fond *Narciſſus* face,
 And dround our ſelves in that wheron we ſtare,
 And fede the fleſh ſo long with daintie fare,

That belly fwelles, or ftomack belchith up
The liquor fweet, that came from fpiced cup.
One daies difgrace doth brede an endles fore,
And payfe us home for all thinges pafte before.

One plage
overthrows
many plea-
fures.

Yet climbing up the tree of tickell truſt,
We ſtreache the arme as far as reach may go:
Diſguiſd with pompe, and pampred up with luſt,
We gaſe aloft, and never lokeſ belo,
Till hatchet cumeſ, and gives the fawling blo;
Then crack it cryeſ, and all in ſhivers flyeſ
That many a day waſ mounting to the ſkyeſ.
One ſtroke throweſ downe a thouſand boweſ withall,
And ſuch aſ clyme are cruſht by fodayne fall.

Till the falling
blow begeben,
the tree on
triumph ſtand-
eth.

Waſ I not one that in toppe galland ſtode,
And bare great ſway with him that ruld the roſte?
Waſ not my houſe ſprong out of gentel blud,
And waſ not I long time in favor moſt?
Yeſ, ſure I waſ, and therof make I boſte.
At ſkole brought up with Prince of pereleſ race,
A playfeere long with him in every place:
My childhode wan ſuch loue and liking great,
That in mine age I fat in Senate feate.

Syr Simon
brought up at
ſkole with the
Prince of
Waleſ and
Acquitaine.

Waſ not my fier about a king eſtemde,
And highly plaſt (wherbi he purchaſt praife)
And nere the king in favour, aſ it ſemde?
Yea, mutch made of, full long before my daieſ
Waſ not I ſent embaſter ſundry wayeſ;
And did not I my dewtie every hower,

Into Galatia
to conduct
Don Petro,
king of Caſtill:
Syr Simon waſ
ſent aſ one of
cheefeſt for
that purpoſe.

With paine and purce, as far as stretcht my power?
The world wel knows what service I have done,
And by the same what honor I have wonne.

He appeased
an uprore in
the citie of
London.

My manhode made mine enemyes fly like shepe,
(Before the wolfe that watcheth for his pray,)
My wisdom did in peace the commons kepe,
When *John* of Gaunt they wold have made away.
My prefence oft could quiet many a fray:
My counsel coeld the rage of retchles heades,
My stoutnes sarvd the state in fundry steades;
My noble mynd could never take no rest,
For publike wealth I had such burning brest.

He wan vic-
tory in a vali-
ant fight, and
yet comming
home was
taken pri-
soner.

In *Poiteou* long against the *French* I was,
Where frontier warre I hild, and did full well;
And as I did throw many a perell passe,
At comming home in enemyes hands I fell:
And when, in dede, my prince therof hard tell,
He fory was, and spake of me much good;
But as these thinges in weight and ballaunce stood,
Our fouldiers toke a Duches of great fame,
Who, at that tyme, of *Burbon* bare the name.

The Duches
of *Burbon* pri-
soner, and did
raunfom fyr
Symon Burley.

The fouldiors fwore, that she shuld neare be free,
(Nor fee her fune, nor fynde a sparke of grace,
Nor loke for hope,) till she had raundfomd mee,
And set me safe in good and quiet cace.
Lo! what regard they had, in every place
Of me those dayes, lo! how I was on height,
Lo! how I was employd in thinges of weight:

At home embraft, abroad wel likt with all,
Yea, lou'd and feard among both great and small.

When forraene frinds did fend for fuccor here,
King *Richard* baed me aunfwer make therin :
In prefence then there ftode a greater peere,
But I was he that did the favor win
To fpeake, and thus me creadit did begin,
And ftill increace as one whose lampe, in deede,
Cowld want no oyle the blafe and flame to feede ;
My candell blafde fo cleere as ftar by night,
And where I came the torche gave littel light.

And when the king, for caufes good and great,
Devidd to match with one beyond the feas,
Twas I was thoght moft fit to worke that feat ;
And in this cafe the king I did fo pleafe,
Of marriage ther the knot was knit with eafe :
And fo from thence a duke was fent with me,
For this behalf the ftate of thinges to fee.
Thus ftill I was emploid in great affaires,
As hap her felf had hald me up her ftaires.

An office here I had of great renowne,
A place nere prince, and ftill in court to be ;
That might commaund the people up and down,
And thruft them out, or cal them in to me :
Bad I them run, on flocks then wold they fle ;
Bad I them ftand, in dede they durft not fit :
I fwayd them all, as horfe is ruld by bit.
I bare in hand the ftafe that kept the fturr,
And knokt their pates that preft to neer the dur.

One Paskall
was fent from
the king of
Navar hether
for fuccor; and
king Richard
made Syr
Simon anfwere
the embafdor,
therle of Sa-
lisbury and
other in pre-
fence.

King Richard
fent him to
conclude a
marriage, and
the Duke of
Taffon was
fent hether
with Syr
Simon from
the king of
Bearn and
Almaine about
this matter.

He was lord
chamberlayne.

Wher fortune
smiles, the
world fawnes.

Lord Warden, loe ! of the Sinck Ports I was,
And captaine both of Dover Castel tho ;
Throw lordly rouses and places I did passe,
As easely, sure, as man can wish to go.
I knew no ebbe, my tide did dayly flo ;
I kept the trayne, I had the lively trope,
I held up head, I never thought to drope :
I went no where but I was wayted on,
And shone in pompe like perle or precious stone.

Favour gives
more prefer-
ments than
men can
honestlye
crave.

Amonge the chiefe, yea chieft, was I helde,
My prince preferde me so for vertues fake ;
And what he sawe I able was to welde
I had, for which I feldome sute did make.
I stoode beneath, whilst he did appulls shake
Into my lap, when lest I lokt therefore :
As somewhat came, so daily followed more
By heapes, as though great mounts of massie Gould
In my most neede should aunswere what I would.

Wealthe glads
the greedie
minde.

The floods of wealth that doth refresh the minde
With gladsome thoughts of threefold sweete delight,
Came gushsing in against both tide and winde,
On which faire baits eche fishe desires to bite.
A careless eye, I cast of worlds dispight,
That spurnes at such that fortune listes alofte.
A wicked worme, that waites on worship ofte,
A swarme of wasps, that useth nought but sting
On those that ries and rules about a kinge.

Spitefull
people are
hateful flies.

O hateful flies ! ye hatcht of wretched brode,
On evrye dishe in haste ye blow and humme ;

O cankred men! of vile and noughtie mode,
 You do infeckt all places where you cumme;
 You make small shoe, yet founde as shrill as drumme
 In peoples eares; and still your poison restes
 On noble mindes, and tender harmeles brestes:
 Ye mallice much the hie and mightie fort,
 To kill good name by brute of false report.

If poore men rise in favour any way,
 The ritche repines to see how they are plaest;
 As hounds do barke that houlds the bucke at bay,
 The people prate, and spende much speache in waest.
 Looke, faith the lewde, on newe start up in haest:
 Looke who rules now; loke what this man hath founde;
 Looke how in lappe doth Fortunes ball rebounde.
 They looke not how to clime for vertues fake,
 But how of world they may a wonder make.

The world
 rather doth
 wonder at the
 wel doings of
 many, that
 devise to get
 glory by
 vertue.

So loftie minds, with lothsome lowring lookes,
 Saluts the good that growes in princes grace,
 And watcheth close, in corners and in nookes,
 How they by wiles the worthy may deface.
 No marveile, fure; it is a common case,
 To heare them snarre, whose natures are not like.
 What greiund can rest by currish countrie tike?
 What hawke can sit in peace for carraine crow?
 What tongue can scape the skolding of a shrow?

Poore and
 riche have
 loftie minds,
 and poute and
 fwel at other
 mens good
 fortunes.

The dolt disdaines the deepe wise man, ye wot,
 The blunt abhors the quicke sharpe witte, in deede;
 The coward hates the hande that conquest got;

Disdaine
 among all
 forts of people
 and creatures.

The jade will wince to stande by storing steede ;
 The glotten gronts to see the hongrie feede.
 Thus thinges from kinde so farre can neare agree,
 No more then can the catte and dogge, you see :
 As choise is greate of wealth and worldly goods,
 Men differ much in maners and in moods.

Strife there is
 in mettalls,
 stones, flowers,
 and planets.

One jewell stains an other very farre,
 And strife there is in mettalls grosse and fine ;
 And sondrye luckes belongs to every starre ;
 And planets, to[o], they saye that can devine
 One race and bloud do seldome draw one line.
 A graine of grudge is sowne so deeply heare,
 That nothing scarce can scape from mallice cleare :
 Thus mallice makes a murmure where it goes,
 And strikes out right, yet gives but secret blowes.

Disdainfull
 heads are mis-
 chevous moths
 that eat up
 good clothes.

The greedie gnat, and privie eating mothe,
 A monster small that scarce is felt or seene,
 Lies lurking still in plaits of finest clothe ;
 And little wormes, whilst nutts are freshe and greene,
 Crepes in and eates the kinnell, as I weene.
 So unto them compare these pevishe pates,
 That, on small cause, do envie great estates ;
 Yea, envie oft is coucht and clokt as cleane
 In mightie folke, as found amonge the meane.

Mighty mens
 mallice com-
 parde to flash-
 ing flames.

The flashing flames that from great fornayes flyes,
 Castes forth such heate as fewe men can abide,
 The rage wherof doth dimme the daintie eyes,
 And breeds great griefe before the harme be spide.

Much mischief coms by pranks of powting pride,
Which puffes and blowes as it would mountaines move,
And growes at first on nought but lacke of love,
Whose spitefull sparks doth spare no speach nor time,
(Nor practize leude) to plucke them downe that clime.

This envie is a mightie monfter greate,
That fwims like whale amonge the litle frie,
Whose gaping mouth would soone consume and eate
The gogions small that in small corners lye ;
His thirstie throte would drinke all places drye,
And sucks up all, and so of all leaves nought
Which should serve all, if all did bere one thought.
O hungrie flye ! that would be all in all,
And maggots brings, when men for feeding call.

Envie is a
monfter
among men.

As greatest flouds most gravell do retaine,
And strongest tides runnes oer the weakest walles,
So hiest states do nourrishe most disdaine,
And at rebounde striks out the tennis balles ;
Yea, they who thinckes them furthest of from falles
Are watching still, in court, in field or towne,
Like stombling stockes, to trip their fellowes downe ;
And none do strive and struggle for the gooles,
But such as have their harts most full of hooles.

With droffe
and gravell
greate flouds
be choked up.

Yea, heapes of them are harbred here and theare
In golden haules, that shines like *Phebus* bright,
Where flattres flocke, who tattles in the eare
A thousand lyes that never coms to light :
They worke the waxe with fire both day and night,

Diffemblers,
the devils dere
darlings, the
onely workers
of wickednes.

They spin the webbe that takes the folishe flie,
 They baite the hoke that bleres the simple eye ;
 They shove them out that should be called in,
 They make the match that doth the wager win.

Strife onelye is
 fowed by
 foyfting fel-
 lowes, that
 followes for-
 tune and
 playes on
 advauntage.

And they breede strife where all in quiet stode,
 They packe the cards and playe most filthy pranckes,
 They sharpe the sworde that shedes the giltles bloud,
 They leest deserve and alwayes gets most thanks ;
 They feede the streame that breakes the mightie bankes,
 They are the sheares that marrs the garment quite,
 They have the tongues that spares no speach nor spite,
 They are the babes still dandled on the knee,
 And those are they that rottes the foundest tree.

The givinge
 countenance to
 fawners en-
 fects with their
 diffimulation
 the harts of
 noblemen.

If fawners fled the house of mightie men,
 And mightie folke folke would frowne on fawning currs,
 Deceit should shonne the noble houses then,
 And velvet weedes should shake of cleaving burrs ;
 But storing stedes are prickt that needs no spurrs :
 Thus palfrey flings and flounceth out of frame,
 That els of kinde were curteous, meeke and tame.
 A jomblinge jobb doth strike the bowle awrye,
 Which of himselfe would close on bias lye.

Noblenes
 abused with
 busy bablers.

For noble bloud must needs have noble minde,
 And flie the gate of fawcon gentle, milde ;
 And sure it is against their noble kinde
 To play the kite and cruell coistrel wilde ;
 Til tatlers come, with tongues full finely filde,
 And chaunge their modes and marre their maners cleane,

They fkarce do know what cankred hate doth meane,
But when from best to worft the good are wrought
By bufy braines, all fortes of fleightes are fought.

Noblenes is
noble of it
felfe.

Then burnes the breste as hot as *Eathna* hill,
And rage beres rule where reason dwelt before ;
The haftie heade is fwift to flay and kill,
The hautie hart hurds up much hate in ftore ;
The altred minde doth make the mifchiefe more,
The kindled coles doth crepe in ftrow fo farre
That quarrels rife, and peace is turnde to warre :
One haleth backe, an other drawes afide,
And weakeft bones muft needes the brunt abide.

Hatred hales
men to unhap-
pie dealings.

As I afpierd by vertue and defarte,
And was by prince cald unto credite ftill,
So fome by fleight did feeke to fucke my harte,
And of my bloud did thrift to drincke their fill :
They fought to ftoppe the water from the mill,
And turne the wheele and all the joynts awrye.
Lo! heare how clofe the fwelling serpents lye,
Loe! how they cafte their venom as they maye,
And marke what hate they gaine that beareth fway.

Not one maye
be advanced,
but either rich
or power
envieth.

For that I grew full great with *Robert Vear*,
A noble man full wife and mightie both,
And had the guide of good Prince *Edwards* hear,
To fhew therein my dutie, faith and trothe,
Great mallice rofe; as grudginge daily grothe
Twene many men that cannot rule their rage.
A mightie duke there was, well ftept in age,

Therle of
Oxforde, call-
ed duke of
Ireland, fa-
vored much
fir Simon.

That fought to reape the corne that I had sowne,
And could not rest till I was quite oerthrowne.

His office and
dignitie made
mightie men
dispise him.

My roulmes and rule, and things that I had goet,
My gaine, my wealth, and glory as it grue,
Was in his eye so bigge a mightie moet,
That loe! this duke my plague did still pursue :
With open mouth he so the bellows blue
That sparkes of fier as thicke flew in my face,
As in the funne the gnatts do flie at chace ;
Or as the balle rebounds at every stroke,
So loe! his words did smore me up in smoke.

The band that
the duke made
against the
king, the duke
of Yorke,
thearle of Sa-
lisburye, therle
of Arundell,
therle of Nor-
thumberland,
therle of No-
tingham, and
tharchbishop
of Canter-
burye.

This dreadfull duke did drive a wondrous drift
To worke his will with flipper sleight of hande,
And fought to give King *Richards* frends a lift,
For whom he did prepare a secrete bande,
Whose bolde attempts did trouble all this lande ;
But few could finde the darnell in the corne,
Or judge aright the roes from pricking thorne :
So close in clowde was clokte their cunning arte,
That none could know who plaide the foxes parte.

A noble of
everie fier in
England was
the taxe that
the noughtie
duke said the
kinge did
demaunde.

This duke did raise a brute the king would have
A taxe most straunge of all the realme throwe out,
And to the lords and commons councell gave
Against the king to stand both stiffe and stout.
This practise proude was patcht with many a clout :
Here did the wolfe leade filly lammes amis,
(And suckt their bloud) as wolvishe maner is ;
Here traytrous tricks, and trebell trothles traynes
In subjects brestes began to sprede theyr vaines.

The Duke of Yorke and divers noble peers
 Forfoke the king, and held with this uprore ;
 By which great strife was sowne in sondry sheres,
 And corries rose that made a running fore ;
 Bigge biles brust out where fleshe was founde before,
 And though some time the surgeon salve did finde
 To heale the wound (the skarre remaind behinde) :
 A common plague doth creepe alonge the realme,
 As skulls of fishe swimmes up and downe the streame.

The greatest townes and cities of most name,
 As London, Yorke, and many mo beside,
 These dukes did draw with folly out of frame,
 And made some strive against both streame and tide.
 Where bankes be brooke the water cannot bide,
 Where flouds flee out the fishe do follow fast,
 And than to late to call againe is past :
 The swallow flies no swifter under winge,
 Then mens device that do forsake a kinge.

The duke
 caused all the
 greates townes
 of England to
 exclaime on
 the king and
 his counsell.

For faith once staine seekes straight for starting holes,
 As prisners doe that hath their promise broke ;
 The seames once ript, of shue farewell the soles ;
 The oxe set free, will seeke to shonne the yoke ;
 The chimney bruste, the house is full of smoke ;
 The fleuce drawen uppe, downe drives the dregs and all ;
 The strongest tript, the weakest needs must fall :
 There is no stay to hold meane people in,
 When might with maine the mischiefe doth begin.

Where faith is
 broken all
 abuses enters
 and falles to
 fonde at-
 temptes.

A lordly rebel-
lion, and a
rebels pre-
sumption to
their prince.

The lords alledgd, the king was governd still
By such as came from base and poore estate,
And sayd he should no longer have his will ;
By which bould speache there grew so great debate,
The lande was bent on murther, ruyne and hate.
Now severall wayes from hives flew out the bees,
Now tempests came, and tare up mightie trees ;
Now traitours flockt, and fell to sackshions straunge,
Whose fickle myndes still gaped for a chaunge.

A rebuke for
rebels.

O vipars brode, and bloody bosome snakes !
O butchers cures, that would your maister byte !
O helhoundes rude of Plutos lothesum lakes !
O curfed crew, more crewell then the kyte !
O kankred hartes, so fraught with froward spite !
O tigers wilde ! O monstrous men most vyle !
Where was your love and dewtie all this whyle ?
How durst you speake so stoutly to his face,
To whom of right the stoutest ought give place.

Among beafts
the lion is
obeyed.
Among birdes
the egle.
Among fishe
the dolphyn.
And among
the smalest
bees a great
bee is their
king.

Among brute bestes that savage ar and wilde,
The lion raignes and rules with regall pompe ;
And so great birdes stoupes downe like littill childe
(To fathers beck) if eagle doth but lowre :
Than, to a king dare people loke so fowre
That they will force their suffraine paste their reatche ?
No scoller ought his learned tewtor teache,
No member dare presume to rule the hed ;
None raignes and rules but kynges when all is fed.

Note how they shrinke that shapen to give a shooke
 Against a king, and marke how traitors speede;
 Note how their hedges do tumble of the block
 That with vaine hope do peoples humors fede;
 And note from whence doth princes powre procede;
 And note withall how farre doth stretch his fame,
 And faulters quake that do but heere his name,
 For at the brunte faye, here a king doth cumme!
 Home runne poore knaves, and down they fling the
 [drumme.

Marke what
 mischief they
 come unto
 that strive
 against the
 streame.

Harke howe this duke, whereof I spake before,
 By three estates unto a coumpt did call
 Their king and lorde, whose minde they troubled fore,
 And vexte thereby his frendes and favers all:
 They fill in lashe, they felt the bluddy brall,
 They losse their goodes, they got a great disgrace,
 They fled the courte, they were pursued in chace,
 They were full faine, for none offence or cawes,
 At open barre to plede their cace by lawes.

The London-
 ers, being then
 evil disposed to
 their king, de-
 fired Thomas
 of Wodstock
 to take the
 charge of the
 citie upon him.

Suche are the happes of those that hould with right,
 Such cureles woundes they have that fores wold heale,
 Suche hate they heape in hucksters handes that light,
 Suche harmes they finde that standes with commonweale;
 And such know not to whom they should appeale.
 When wrong will rule and revell faules to spoyle,
 The faithfull flocke are forste to feele the foyle,
 Drede drives defertes that daylie well hath dunne,
 To flie from foes, or els throw fier to runne.

Those that
 stode with
 right received
 most wrong,
 and traytors
 tormented the
 trewe men
 that leste
 offended.

The Duke of
Glocester and
Duke of
Yorke, with
others, ma-
ligned those
the king
favored.
Note.

Rebels always
beres the
blowes.

King Richards
best frindes
were by tray-
tors frowardly
handled.

Because these lordes, who loekte to lede the daunce,
Saw other step one stage ere they could ryse,
By playne fine force they would them felves advaunce,
And for that feate this drifte they did devise.
Desier of fame doth so abuse the wife,
They ende like fooles that erste began full well,
And soneft smarte that ringes the larom bell;
For wheles and all faules downe about their eares
From rotten frames, who first stode voide of feares.

But we, who were besigd by fortune so,
Betraied I meane, if trothe may tell the tale,
Were skorgd and plagd, and faine to fawne on foe,
And few to such as set our lives to sale;
We were shut up, they had the bounfing gale
That blew their barke beyonde our compasse cleane,
With failes aflaunte, and had had no mery meane:
They clapt on all, and wente throw streme and flud,
When trew mens fete stode faste in mier and mud.

I was the man that moste of mischief had:
I was accusde and cald to counte in haste,
I founde moste cause to sighe and sit full sad,
I was laide up, and thereby clene disgraste.
Myn enmies said, I did the treasure waste,
And held in hand the souldiours money to;
I was so nipt, I knew not what to do.
My frinds wext faint, or ferd the like mischaunce,
But I was he must leade the dolefull daunce.

A mitred head, a bishop bolde and brave,
 Said, I conveide away *Saint Thomas* shryne,
 And that I mente the king of *Beame* should have
 The fame from me: by privy practise fyne
 To hoiste me up he laid boeth hooke and lyne,
 And so by frindes he framd so flat a feate
 That I was cald to strait accounte in heate;
 For this, and more, a libell long and large
 (Of forgid faultes) that he laide to my charge.

The Bishop of
 Canterbury
 accusde him of
 sacrilege, and
 conveying
 money over
 the sea by
 night to the
 king of Beame.

No clarke might come to make my reckning right,
 No tale could serve to shew my matter throw,
 No depe discource could bring the trothe to light,
 No man of law could canves cafes now;
 Strong hande did all, I must both bende and bow.
 The king knewe not of halfe the wrongs I felte,
 Nor none could finde how finely cardes were delte:
 A pack was made, and one had got the ace,
 And trimly robd the trumps before my face.

Note.

No boote to bid the players deale agayne,
 The game was won, and I had lost the stake:
 These foisters fyen could nick both by and maine,
 Aud kog out right when they the dice did shake,
 And of fwete spoyle a bitter banquet make.
 They cald me in, and I the only geste
 Was bidden then unto this bluddy feest:
 I was compeld to taest what dishe they wolde,
 And in great heete to drinke up poison colde.

I meane, my fate and fortune was so harde
I could not scape their handes that fought my life,
Who wreackt their wrath on me without regarde ;
Yet long in sheath they kept the murthering knife,
For on my hap at first rose all this strife,
And on the frinds that I by hap had wonne :
This end I had, and mischief was begonne.
For taking parte with such as likt me well,
To ground full flat from top of tree I fell.

When in the Tower my foes had clapt me faste,
Few frendes I founde, the world began to winke,
And so at length in rerage was I caste,
And poste alone was lefte to fwym or finke ;
And judgement was as I was forste to thinke
That I should paie twoo hundrith thousand frankes.
For all my toile, lo ! here is all my thanks
I did posses : my charges and my losse
And paines abroad came home by weping crosse.

And wanting wealth to paie this heavy summe,
With billes and glaives from prison was I led ;
And so unto the Towre hill did I cumme
To suffer death, where sone I losse my hed.
The king knew naught of this til I was ded.
Loo ! people here how thinges about were brought,
And what disdaine and mightie mallice wrought.
Lo ! here his ende and sodaine sliding downe,
That was both true to God and to the crowne.

As littill twigges oer toppes of houfes grow,
Whose braunches big fprede out a mightie tree ;
Or as fmale brokes with feaſ do ſwell and flowe,
Yet hath no powre to paſſe their boundes you ſee ;
Or as faire flowers that in gay gardins bee
Sprouts out awhile, and when they are at height
They fade and fall, and then declineth ſtreight,
So man doth mounte a while on ſtages hie,
And at the beſte fhottes downe like ſtarre from ſkie.

When thinges are growen as farre as courſe is ſet,
And have attained the fulneſ of their ſtate,
They backwarde come, and can no further get ;
For cleane expierd, ye ſee, is then their date.
The life we beare of force muſt yeld to fate,
The ſteppes we trede weares out by track of tyme ;
When ladder brekes we can no higher clyme ;
Where Fortune ſittes ſo faſte doth grynde the mill,
The whele turns rounde, and never ſtandeth ſtill.

Long is the toile or man to triumphe cummes,
Large is the plot where we our pagantes play,
Swete is the ſap, and fower are all the plummes
That paine pluckes of[f] the pleaſant planted ſpray ;
Shorte is the tyme of all our glorie gaye,
Vaine is the hope of hazardes here in earth,
Great are the greves of life from day of bearth :
No fuerty growes of all is here poſſeſte,
All comes to naught when people feareth leſte.

Loo ! what it is to stande on tickell stayes,
Where hatred heaves the housholde out of square ;
And when it faules the joyntes fle severall wayes,
And joyfull weights are cled with wo and care.
The fervauntes howle, the wyfe and childe is bare,
The frends wring hands, the foes do laugh and flyer ;
Suche chaunges chaunce to those that do aspyre :
The grounde but gaps who first shall faule therein,
And who fokes most at length the leste may wyn.

Loo ! *Churchyarde*, now my mirthles tale is tould.
A mourning verse prepare thou straight for me,
And in thy ryme some stately order hould,
For that I sprong not out of base degree :
Let every lyne a lively sentence bee
To wake the wittes of such as world would knoe,
And lifte to marke how worldly matters goe ;
And when thou comste to touch the gauled back,
Leape oer the horse, or use a ryders knack.

Bear even hande, and holde the bridell right,
Yet whiske the wande sometimes for pleasures fake ;
Yea, spice thy speache and tearmes with trifels light,
That lokers on may not thy minde mistake :
When store is gone, yet do thy budget shake
Among the best, and feede their fanfies still,
No matter though a mouse crepe out of hill :
Smale toyes may brede great sporte in great estates,
And in great groundes men walke throw littill gates.

Do wisely warne, and warely use thy pen ;
Speake Englishe plaine, and rove about the but,
And shote at will, and flante by wicked men :
Shale out the shell, and bid them crack the nut ;
Showe some delight, and so the sentence shut,
And bid the world behold me in a glas,
That did to rewen from pompe and pleasure passe.
Now I am gone, I wythe the rest behinde
(As they desier) may better fortune finde.

A TRAGICALL DISCOURSE
of the unhappy mans life.

COM, courtiars all, draw neer my morning hers ;
Com, heer my knell ear corps to church shall go ;
Or at the least, come read this wofull vers
And last farewell the haples penneth fo ;
And such as doth his lief and manners kno,
Come, shed some teares, and se him painted out,
That restles heer did wander world about.

O pilgrims poer ! preace neer my pagent nowe,
And note full well the part that I have playd,
And wyesly waye my thriftles fortune throwe,
And print in brest eache worde that heer is said :
Shrinke not, my frindes, step forth, stand not afrayd :
Though monstrous hap I daily heer possfest,
Some sweater chaunce may bring your hartes to rest.

For though the wretch in cold and hunger lies,
The happy wyght in pompe and pleasure fittes ;
The weake fals down whear mighty folk aries,
The found feels not the feble ague fits :
So world, you wot, doth serve the finest wittes.
Though dullards doe in darknes daily run,
The wyes at will can walke whear shyens the funne.

And hap fals not to evry man a like :
Some fleeps full found, that hath the world at call ;
Some leaps the hedge, some lights a mid the dyke ;
Some sockes the sweet, and some the bitter gawll ;
The use of things blynd deaftnie gives us all :
So, though you see ten thousand fouls in hell,
Yet may you hoep in heavens blys to dwell.

Let my mishap a worldly wonder be,
For few can finde the fruit that I did taest ;
Ne leavs nor bowes I founde upon the tree,
And whear I plowd the ground lay ever waest :
A man would think the child was borne in haest,
Or out of time, that had such lucke as I,
For loe ! I looke for larkes when fauls the skye.

No foyll, nor feat, nor season serves my torn,
Each plot is fowen with forrow whear I goe ;
On mountayn top, they say, wher torch shuld born,
I find but smoek and loethsom smothering woe :
Neer fountayn hed, whear springs do daily floe,
Cold ife I get, that melts with warmth of hand,
So that I starve whear cock and condits stand.

I quench smal thirst wher thoufands drink and byb,
An empty cup I carry clean away ;
And though as lean as raek is evry ryb,
And hollow cheeks doth hidden grief bewray,
The ritche eates all, the poore may fast and pray ;
No butter cleaves upon my bred at need,
When hongry mawe thinks throet is cut in deed.

The fhallow broeks whear littell penks ar found
I fhon, and feek the feas to fwymme thear on,
Yet veffayll finks, or bark is layd a ground,
Whear leaking fhips in faefty ftill have gon ;
They harber finde when haven have I non :
Hap cauls them in when I am lodgd at large,
Thus plaines creeps in cold Cock Lorels barge.

Full thirty yeers both court and warres I tryed,
And ftill I fought acquaintaunce with the beft,
And servd the ftatet, and did fuch hap abyed
As might befall, and Fortune fent the reft :
When drom did found, a fouldiour was I preft,
To fea or lande as princes quarrell ftod,
And for the faem full oft I loft my blod.

In Scotland long I lingred out my yeers
When *Wylford* lyved, a worthy wight in deed,
And thear at length I fell fo farre in breers,
I taken was, as deaftny had decreed :
Well, yet with woords I did my foes fo feed,
That thear I lyvd in pleafuer many a daye,
And fkaept fo free, and did no randfom paye.

First at Wark
with George
Lawfon.
Taken under
the Lorde
Admirall at
Saynt My-
nins.

Some fayd I found in Scotland favour then.
 I graunt my pomp was more than reason wold,
 Yet on my band I sent hoem fondry men
 That els had pyend in pryson, pyncht with cold.
 To French and Scots so fayr a taell I tolde
 That they beleevd whyt chalk and chees was oen,
 And it was pearll that proved but pybull stoen.

Under Sir
 Hue Wyl-
 lowbe.

Mounfoer de
 Terms befieg-
 ed this fort.

In *Lawther* fort I clapt my self by fleight;
 So fled from foes, and hoem to frynds I past :
 The French in haest befeegd that fortres streight ;
 Then was I like to light in fetters fast,
 But loe ! a peace broek up the feeg at last,
 When weery wars and wicked blodshed great
 Maed both the fydes to seek a quiet feat.

Sir Anthony
 Sentlyger,
 deputie of
 Irelande.

From thens I cam to Englande as I might ;
 And after that to Irlande did I fayll,
 Where *Sellenger*, a wyres and noble knight,
 Gave me such place as was to myen advayll.
 Than teafters walkt as thick as doth the haill
 About the world : for loe ! from thence I boer,
 For service doen, of money right good stoer.

Meatts in
 Lorain, won by
 treafon.
 In Fraunce
 served under
 Captayne
 Crayer.

Hoem cam I thoe, and so to Fraunce did faer,
 When that their kyng wan *Meatts* throw fatchis fien :
 So on the stock I spent, all voyd of caer,
 And what I gaet by spoyll I held it myen ;
 Than down I past the pleasant flood of *Ryen*,
 And so I farvd in Flaunders, note the faem,
 Whear loe ! at first my hap fell out of fraem.

For I was clapt in pryson without cawse,
And straightly held for comming out of Fraunce ;
But God did worke, through iustice of the lawse
And help of frindes, to me a better chaunce :
And still I hoept the warres wold me aduance,
So trayld the piek, and world began a nue,
And loekt like hawk that laetly cam from nue.

In Charles the
fifths time,
under Captain
Matson.
Got out of
prison by helpe
of the noble
Madame Sell
de embry.

Three yeer, at least, I sawe the Emprours warres,
Than hoemward drue, as was my wonted traed ;
Whear funne and moen, and all the seven starres
Stoed on my fyed, and me great welcom maed ;
But wether fayre and flowrs full soen will faed :
So peoples love is like nue befoms oft,
That sweeps all clean, whyels broem is green and soft.

Well, oens again to warrs I drue me fast,
And with *Lord Grey* at *Giens* I did remayn,
Where he or his in any serves past
I followed on, among the warlyk trayn ;
And sometime felt my part of woe and payn,
As others did that cannon well could like,
And pleafuer took in trayling of the pike.

Eight yeres
under my
Lorde Grey.

At length the French did *Giens* besiege, ye wot,
And littell help or succour found we tho ;
By whiche fowll want it was my heavy lot
To *Parris* streight with good *Lord Grey* to goe,
As prisners boeth : the world to well doth knoe
By tract of tyme, and wonders charge indeed,
He hoemward went, and took his leve with speed.

But poest aloen I stoed, alack the whyell!
 And contrey clean forgot me: this is true,
 And I might live in sorrowe and exyell,
 And pien away for any thing I knue:
 As I had baekt in deed so might I brue.
 Not one at hoem did seek my greef to heall:
 Thus was I clean cut of from common weall.

Oens agayne
 eskaped out of
 pryfon.

Yet loe! a shift to scaep away I founde.
 When to my fayth my taker gave no trust,
 I did devies in wryting to be bounde
 To come again: the time was fet full just,
 But to retorn forsoeth I had no lust:
 Sens faith could get no credit at his hand,
 I sent him word to come and sue my band.

He came him felfe to court, as I did heer,
 And told his taell as fienly as he might:
 At *Ragland* than was I in *Monmouth* sheer,
 Yet whan in court this matter cam to light.
 My friendes did say that I had don him right,
 A soldiour ought upon his faith to go,
 Which I had kept, if he had sent me so.

Served under
 my Lord Grey
 at Leeth.

Well, yet my minde could never rest at hoem,
 My shues wear maed of running leather fuer,
 And boern I was about the world to roem,
 To see the warres, and keep my hand in ure.
 The Frenche, ye knoe, did Englishmen procuer
 To come to *Leeth*, at fiedge wherof I was,
 Till Frenche did seeke in ships away to pas.

A littell breath I toek than after this,
And shaept my self about the court to be,
And evry daye, as right and reason is,
To serve the prince in court I fettled me.
Some frends I found, as frends do go, you se,
That gave me wordes as sweet as hony still,
Yet let me lyve by hed and conning skill.

I croetcht, I kneeld, and many a cap could vayll,
And watched laet, and early roes at moern,
And with the throng I follouwd hard at tayll,
As brave as bull, or sheep but nuely thorn,
The gladdest man that ever yet was boern,
To wayt and staer among the staets full hye,
Who feeds the poer with many frendly eye.

But who can live with goodly lookes aloen,
Or mirry wordes that founds like tabrers pyep?
Say what they will, they love to keep their own,
And part with nought that commeth in their griep.
You shall have nuts, they say, when ploms are riep:
Thus all with shalls or shaels ye shall be fed,
And gaep for gold, and want both gold and led.

The proof therof maed me to feke far hens:
To *Anwerp* than I trudged on the spleen,
And all in haest to get some spending pens,
To serve my torn in service of the Queen.
But God he knoes my gayn was small, I ween,
For though I did my credit still encrease,
I got no welth by warres, ne yet by peace.

A captaine
of great charge
under the
Prince of
Orrange.

Yet harke and noet, I praye you, if you pleas,
In *Anwarp* town what fortune me befell.
My chaunce was fuch, whan I had past the feas,
(And taken land, and theron refted well)
The people jard, and rang a larom bell,
So that in aarms the town was evry whear,
And fewe or noen of lief stoed certain thear.

A noble prince I fawe amid that broyll,
To whom I went, and fwaer his part to taek.
The commons caem, all fet on raeg and spoyll,
And gave me charge to keep my wyts a waek :
The prince, for love of king and countreis fake,
Bad me do well, and fhed no gyltles blood,
And fave from spoyll poer people and there good.

He faved reli-
gious houfes
and moft of
the towne
from burning.

I gave my fayth and hand to do the faem,
And wrought the best that I could worke therefoer,
And brought at length the commons in fuch fraem
That some wear bent to blo the coell no moer ;
Yet some to rage and robbry ran full foer,
Whom I reformd : fo that no harm did fall
To any wyght among the commons all.

The ftreets we kept, and braek ne houle nor doer,
And for three dayes made no mans finger bleed :
I daer avouch that neither ryche nor poer
Could fay they loft the valeur of a threed.
Well, what of that ? you kno, an honest deed
Is foen forgoet of fuch as thanckles be,
For in the end it fared fo by me.

The town I kept from cruell fword and fier
Did seek my lief, when peace and all was maed ;
And fuch they wear that did my blud defier
As I had favde from bloes and bluddy blaed.
I crept away, and hid me in the fhaed,
But as the daye and fun began to fhien,
They followd faft with force and practies fien.

Note.

In priests atyer, but not with shaven crown,
I fkaept their hands that fought to have my hed ;
A forckid cap, and pleytted corttall gowne,
Far from the church ftoed me in right good fted.
In all this whyell ne maffe for quick nor ded
I durft not fing : a poefting priest I was,
That did in haeft from poft to pyller pas.

Escaped by
Gods helpe
out of great
daunger.

In *Brigges* than the parsons breetch did quake,
For there a clarke came tinging of a bell
(That in the towne did fuch a rombling make)
I could not walke in vickars garments well :
So there I wisht my felfe in cockell shell,
Or fea mans flopps that fmeld of pitch and tarre,
Which roebs I found ear I had traveld farre.

Followde by
the Marshall
8. dayes.

A marshall came and fearcht our woole fleet than :
In boat I leapt, and fo throw Sealand went ;
And many a day a filly weary man
I travailde there, and ftoode with toile content,
Till God by grace a better fortune fent,
And brought mee home, in fafety, as you knowe :
Great thancks to him I give that farvde me foe.

At the Slues
the Marshall
and he were
both in one
fhip together.

A drift of the
Duke of Alva
to dispatch
me.

In court where I at rest and peace remainde,
I thought upon the part that Flemings plaide,
And for good will, since I was so retaine'd,
I thought to make those roisters once afraide ;
So hoiste up faile when I had anckar waide,
And into Fraunce I slipte with much a do,
Where lo ! a net was making for mee to.

The Lord
Embassador,
now Lord
Norris, did
helpe mee
away.

Yet paste I throwe to *Paris*, without stoppe,
When civill broils were likely to begin ;
And standing there, within a merchaunts shoppe,
I heard one faye, the prince was comming in
To Flaunders fast, with whom I laet had bin
Before you wotte : thus having mirrie nues
I stoole away, and so did Fraunce refues.

But, by your leave, I fell in daungers deepe,
Before I could in freedome go or ride ;
Devouring wolves had like to flaine the sheepe,
And wiept their mouthes upon the muttons hide.
Nought goes amisse where God wilbe the gide ;
So throw the place, where parrel most did seeme,
I past at will when daunger was exstreeme.

The prince I found from *Collen* at his house,
And there I saw of riotters good store,
Who welcomde mee with many a mad carouse ;
Such is their gies, and hath bin ever more.
To *Flaunders* thus we marcht, and God before,
And neare the *Rine* our camp a season laye,
Till money came, and had a genrall paye.

In *Flaunders* longe our campe remayned still,
And, sweete with sowre, we tasted sondry wayes.
Who goes to warrs must feele both good and ill ;
Some likes it not, and some that life can prayes
Where nights are cold, and many hongrie dayes :
Some will not be, yet such as loves the drom
Takes in good parte the chaunces as they com.

Perhaps my share was not the sweetest thear,
I make no boest, nor finde no fault therein :
I fought my selfe the burthen for to bear
Amonge the rest that had oer charged bin.
If smart I felt, it was a plague for sin ;
If joy I founde, I knew it would not last ;
If wealth I had, lo ! waest came on as fast.

When Prince did passe to Fraunce, and *Flaunders* laft,
I licence fought to see my native foile :
He told me than, the French, by some fine craft,
On me, at length, would make a pray and spoile :
I toke my leave, not fearing any foile,
But ere the day the skie had cleane forfoek
I fell in snare, as fishe on baited hook.

A pefaunt
betraide me,
and yet was
God my
deliverer.

A wofull tale it is to tell, in deede :
Yet heare it out, and how God wrought for mee.
The case was such that I a gide did neede,
So in the field, full nere a willow tree,
I founde a carle, that needs my gide must bee.
His hand I had, his hart did halte the while,
And treason did, throwe trust, the true begile.

Note.

We held the waye unto *S. Quintayns* right,
 As I did thincke, but long two leages I loft.
 To ease my horfe he bade me oft a light,
 But I thereat seemde dumme and deaffe as post:
 Of stomacke stoute, the way oft times he croft,
 And foughte to take my bridle by the raine:
 That fleight I found, and so he loft his paine.

Had I turnde backe the peyfants wear at hand,
 Who mounted were on better horfe than I.
 A village neare there was within that land,
 Whear loe! my gide would have me needs to lye:
 Not fo, my frend, I aunfwearde very hye;
 Where at he knew the padde in straw was founde,
 So toke the ball, and stroke it at rebounde.

A great
 treacherie.

Thou canst not scape (qd. he), then light a downe;
 Thou art but dead, thy life here shalt thou lose:
 And therewithall the carle began to frowne,
 And laide his hand upon my lether hose.
 Throw fines he made, the towne by this aroes,
 And some by warres that lately losfe their good,
 Sought to reveng the same apon my blood.

My gied leapt up upon the horfe I roode,
 And flang away as fast as he could drive.
 Downe was I haeld, and on my face they troode,
 And for my roebes the tormenters did strive.
 My gide did crie, O! leave him not alive:
 An English churle he is, his tongue doth shoe,
 And gold he hath good store full well I knoe.

They stript me streighte, from doblet to my short,
Yet hose they lasfe untoutcht, as God it would ;
No powre they had to do me further hort,
For as the knife to throte they gan to hold,
To save my life an upright tale I told :
They, hearing that, laid all their weapons downe,
And askt me if I knew Saint *Quintains* towne ?

I past thereby whan to the *Spawe* I went,
(Qd. I) and there my pasport well was veaud.
If that be true, said one, thou shalt be sent
From hens in hast ; and so they did conclud
To town I should from savage country rued ;
So in the hey they laid me all that night,
Yet fought my life before the day was light.

But as with weedes some suffrante flower groes,
So in that foile a blessed man was bred,
Which undertoke to keepe me from my foes,
And save my life by fine device of hed.
He cald me up when they wear in their bed,
And bade me go with him whear he thought best,
Left in that place full small should be my rest.

A secret pro-
vision of God.

I followde on as he did lead the trace :
He brought me safe where I in surety stood.
Thus God throw him did shew his might and grace,
Which joyde me more than all this worldly good.
The other sort wear butchers, all for blood,
And daily flue such stragglars as they toek,
For whom they laie, and watcht in many a noek.

The capitaine
of Pyrroen
handled me
hardly.

That hazard paste, I found more mischieves still,
But none so great, nor none so much to fear.
With toile and paine, with sleight of head and skill,
From Fraunce I came (and laft al mischief thear) :
Nowe here what fruite my native foile doth bear ;
See what I reap, and marke what I have sowne,
And let my lucke throwe all this land be knowne.

Under captain
Leighton after
all these toiles.

Firft, let me tell how Fortune did me call
To *Garnesey* thoe, to staye my troubled miend,
Whear wel I was, althogh my wealth was smal,
And long had dwelt if destiny had assiege :
But as the shippe is subject to the winde,
So we must chaenge as checking chaunces falls ;
Who tosseth men about like tennis balls.

This chaunce is she, some say, that leads men out,
And brings them home when least they looke therefore :
A dalling dame, that breeds both hope and dout,
And makes great woundes, yet seldom salves the soer ;
Not fuer on sea, nor certaine on the shoer,
A worldly witch that dealls with wanton charms :
For one good turne she doth ten thousand harms.

A figge for chaunce, this Fortune bears no shaep,
The people fonde a name to Fortune give,
Which fencelesse foules do after shadowes gaep.
Great GOD doth rule, and sure as God doth live,
He griends the corne, and sifts the meale threw sieve,
And leaves the bran, as reffues of the flowre,
To worke his will, and shew his mightie powre.

Promoshon coms ne from the east nor west,
Ne fouth nor north, it faulls from heaven hie;
For God himfelfe fets up who he thincks best,
And casts them downe whose harts would clime the skie.
Thus earthly happs in worldlings doth not lie:
We trudge, we runne, we ried and breake our braine,
And backwarde come the felfe fame stepps againe.

Note.

Till time aprotche, that God will man prefarre
With labours long, in vaine we beat the ayre;
Our destnies dwell in neither moone nor starre,
Nor comfort coms from people foule nor fayre:
Small hoep in those that fits in golden chayre,
Their moods, their minds, and all we go about,
Takes light from him that putts our candel out.

This argues, now, all goodnes freely groes
From him that first made man of earthly mold,
And floods of wealth into their bosome floes,
That cleerly can his blessed will behold:
As sheppards do, keepe fake their sheepe in fold,
And gardnar knoes how flowrs shold watred be,
So God gives ayde ear man the want can fe.

Note.

Helps coms not, fure, by hap or heads device,
Though wits of men are means to worke the waxe,
And cunning hands do often cast the dice:
All these are toyes, trust up in tinkars packs;
No flame wil ryes, till fier be thrust to flaxe;
No brantch may bud till he that made the plant,
With dew of grace, in deede, supplies the want.

Can earth yeild fruite til springtime fap do fhoe ?
 Can ayer be cleer till foggs and miefts are fled ?
 Can feas and floods at every feafon floe ?
 Can men give life to fhapes and bodies dead ?
 Such secrets pas the reatche of mans vaine head
 So, loke to reap no corne for all our toile
 Till harveft come, and God hath bleft the foile.

The pottar knoes what veffail ferves his turne,
 And therein ftill he powreth liquor sweete :
 The cooke well notes what wood is beft to burne,
 And what conceites is for the banket meete ;
 The captaine marks what fouldiour hath moft fpreete,
 And calls that man to charge and office great,
 When he thincks good, and farvice is in heat.

Dare any wight prefume to take the place
 Of worthy charge, till he therto be cald ?
 Dare fubject brag before the Princes face,
 Or ftrive with ftacts that are in honour ftauld ?
 Dare village boeft with cittie ftonglye wauld ?
 Dare children clime till they good footing find ?
 No ; all thing yelds to him that leads the minde.

Note.

He lifts aloft, he flingeth downe as fafte,
 He gives men fame, and plucks renowne awaye.
 Hap doth not fo, for chaunce is but a blafte,
 An idle word wherewith weake people playe :
 Hap hangs and holds on hazarde evry waye,
 And hazard leanes on doubt and danger deepe,
 That glads but few, and maketh millions weepe.

I use this terme of hap in all I write,
As well to make the matter large and long,
As any cause or dram of great delite
I take therein: but here I do ye wrong,
To leade your eares with such a fenceles song,
From hearing that I promesde have to ende,
The bare discourse the haplesse man hath pende.

So, comming home, and crept from toills abroed,
(With charged breft and hevy heaving hart)
I thought in courte my burthen to unload,
And cast away the cares of former smart;
But there, alas! my chaunce is so oerthwart,
I fit and fighe, and fold mine armes with all,
And in olde griefes a freshe begin to fall.

Yea, thear, where most my hope and haunt hath bin,
Where yeares and dayes I spent apon the stocke,
And divers doe good hap and frendship win,
(And duetie makes a world of people flocke)
And thousands, loe! drawes water from the cocke,
I skarce may moist my mouth when thirst is great,
And hart is cleane consuemde with skalding heat.

A spring of kinde doth floe above the brim;
You cannot stoppe a fountaine if you would,
For throw harde rockes it runneth cleare and trim,
And in some grounde it casts up graynes of gould:
It burfts the earth, and deeply diggs the mould,
It gusheth out, and goes in fondry vayns
From mountaines topp, and spredeth all the plains.

The spring creeps up the higheft hill that is,
 And many wells thear on are easlye found ;
 And this, I wott, where you do water mis
 Small fruite doth groe, it is but barraine ground :
 The foile is sweete where pleasunt springs abounde,
 The cowflop sproutes where springs and fountaines bee,
 And floods begin from fountaine heads, you see.

The labring man thearat doth coell his heat,
 The byrds do baeth their brefts full bravely thear ;
 The bruteft beasts there in finds pleasure great,
 And likes not halfe so well another whear :
 What cause in mee, what dout, what fault, or feare,
 That I maye not, in this so weak a plite,
 Go drinck my fyll whear eatch thing haeth delite.

Note.

The moer we draw the waetter from the well,
 The better farre we bring the spring in fraem ;
 The seas themselves of natuer ries and fwell,
 The moer the winde and weather works the faem :
 The fier borns best when bellows bloes the flaem.
 Let things stande still, and stoer them not in time,
 They shall decaye by meane of droffe and flime.

I see some streams with sticks are choked up,
 And rivers large are marde with beds of fand ;
 I see some bring from doells an empty cup,
 Yet craves an almes and shoes a needye hand :
 I see baer boyes before the banket stand,
 And no man sayth, Loe ! poer man, if thou wutt,
 Take heer a dishe to fill thy hungry gutt.

Of cormrant kinde some crammed capons aer,
The moer they eat, the moer they may consuem :
Some men, likewise, the better that they faer
The worfe they be, and ficker of the ruem ;
And some so chaef, so frowne, so fret, and fuem,
When others feede, they cannot, God he knoes,
Spaer any time the dropping of thear noes.

The bords are spred, and feasts are made thereon,
And futch sit downe that haeth their bellies full,
Whose greedy mouthes from dogg would snatch the boen,
Which snodges swell, and loke like greisie wull :
They puffe, they bloe, yea, like a baited bull,
And shove them backe that on small croems would feede,
Whose pashent harts maks vertue of a neede.

The glotten thincks his belly is to[o] small,
When in his eye a deintie morsell is ;
He grins and gaeps, as though no crom shold fall
From him, and loeks as al the world wear his :
Thus, futch as want aer fuer the poest to kis,
For powlting pried doth preace so fast in place,
That poer plain Tom daer skarce come sho his face.

Eatch one doth seeke for to aspier and ries,
Yet haet we those that doth by vertue clime ;
The foole hee skorns the worship of the wies,
Yet dolts presuem beyond the wyes sometime :
And all this strief is but for dros and slime
That out of earth wee digg with daungers deepe,
Full hard to winne, and much more wors to keepe.

This makes me mues : when some have heaps in hord,
They will not help the neereft freinde they have,
And yet with smiles and many a frendly word
They graunt to give before a man doth crave.
Sutch barbers fine can finely poul and shave,
And washe full cleane, till all away they washe,
Than good fir Griem, like lobb, they leave in lashe.

What should men loes, when they enoughe have had,
If they did part with things that might be sparde ?
A litle peece out of a golden gad
For service long might be a great rewarde.
No, no, as steele and flinte is stiffe and hard,
So world is waxt ; and no good turne is founde
But whear in deede do doble giftes rebounde.

Wee make a legge, and kisse the hand with all
(A French device, nay sure a Spanish tricke)
And speake in print, and say loe ! at your call
I will remaine your owne, both dead and quicke.
A courtier foe can give a lobb a licke,
And dresse a dolt in motley for a while,
And so in fleeve at fillye wodcocke smile.

If meaning went with painted words and shoes,
It mighte suffice such cortteis cheer to taest ;
But with the same disdaine and envye goes,
And trompry great with words and winde in waest ;
Than, arme in arme coms flattry, full of haest,
And leads away the fences out of frame,
That upright witts are thereby stricken lame.

This lowtting lowe, and bowing downe the knee,
But groeps mens minds to creepe in credits lapp ;
Like malte horfe than he holds up head you fee,
That late before could vaile both knee and capp :
The nurse, awhile, can feede the child with papp,
And after beate him on the breetch full baer.
A swarme, God wot, of these fine natuers aer.

There be that biets, yet gronts and whines withall ;
There be that winnes, yet sweare and fay they loes ;
There be that stops and stealls away the ball ;
There be that plantes a weede and plucks a roes ;
There be pleads wante, to whome the fountaine floes :
Such hieds there haps, to make the worlde to thincke,
At fayre well head they neede not for to drinke.

The whales, you fee, eates up the little fishe ;
The prettie penk with sammon may not swim ;
The greateft heads are fedde with finest dishe ;
To foulest pits fayre water runneth trim.
Hee gets the gaine that standeth nere the brim ;
He bloes the cole that hath cold fingers still ;
He starves for bread that hath no corne at mill.

A world to see the course and state of things !
Some would get up that knoes not where to light ;
Some foer the skies that never had no wings ;
Some wrastle well by cunning, not by might ;
Some seems to judge fayre coulours without fight ;
And evry one, with some odde shift or grace,
In world at will runs out a goodly race.

But to be plaine, I lagg and come behinde,
As I wear lame and had a broken legg ;
Or els I cannot lye within the winde ;
And harken still what I might easlie begg :
I neede not say, in mouth I have a gegg,
For I have spoke, and fped in matters small,
By helpe of him that hath my verses all.

But farre, God wot, I am from that I seeke,
And misse the marke that many men do hit ;
Wherfore salt teares do trickle downe the cheeke,
And hart doth feele full many a wofull fit ;
And so aside in follem sorrow fit,
As one, in deede, that is forsaken cleane,
Wher most he doth deserve, and best doth meane.

No matter now, though ech man march and tread
On him that hates the life he beares about ;
Yet such as shall these heavy verses read
Shall finde I blame my fortune, out of dout,
But sens on hope no better hap will sprout,
I yeild to death, and upward lift the minde
Where lothsome life shall present comfort finde.

Sens hope can have no hony from the hive,
And paines can plucke no pleasure for his toile,
It is but vaine for weery life to strive,
And streatch out time with torment and tormoile,
Get what we can death triumphes oer the spoile ;
Than, note this well, though we win neer so mitch,
When death tacks al we leave a mizer ritch.

To live and lacke is doble death, in deede :
A presente death exceeds a lingring woe ;
Sens no good hap in youth did helpe my neede,
In age why should I strive for fortune foe ?
Old years are come and haests me hens to goe ;
The time draws on, I hate the life I haue :
When hart shall breake my grieve shall ende in grave.

Should I seek life, that finds no place of rest,
Ne foile, nor feate, to shroude me from the ayre ?
When cramping colde beclipps my carefull brest,
And dollor drives my hart in deepe dispayre ?
For such foule dayes darke death is wondrous fayre :
As good to make the skrawlling worms a feast,
As pleas the world, wher mischiefe maks her neaft.

Hie time it is to haest my carkas hens,
Youth stoole awaye, and felt no kinde of joye ;
And age he laft in travell ever fens ;
The wanton dayes, that made me nice and coye,
Wear but a dreame, a shadoë, and a toye :
Sith flavrye heer I finde, and nothing els,
My hoem is thear, wher foule in freedome dwels.

In warrs and woe my yeers aer waefsted clean.
What should I see if lordly lief I led ?
I loek in glas, and finde my cheeks so lean,
That evry owre I do but wishe mee ded :
Now back bends downe, and forwards faulls the hed,
And hollow eyes in wrinckled brow doth shrowd,
As though two stars wear creping under clowd.

The lipps waxe cold, and loeks both pael and thin ;
The teeth fawlls out, as nutts forfoek the shaell ;
The baer bald head but shoes whear hear hath bin ;
The lively joynts waxe weery, stiffe, and staell ;
The reddy tongue now folters in his taell ;
The wearishe face, and tawny collour, shoes
The corraeg quails as strength decayes and goes.

The sweete delites are dround in dulled minde,
The gladsome sports to groning fighes are bent ;
The frisking lims so farre from frame I finde,
That I forthincke the time that youth hath spent :
But when I way that all these things wear lent,
And I must pay the earth her dutie throw,
I shrinke no whit to yeld these pleasures now.

Had I posselt the giftes of fortune heer,
A house, a wyfe, and children withall ;
And had in store (to make my frendes good cheer)
Sutch common things as neighbours have at call,
In such dispayre perchaunce I would not fall ;
But want of this, and other lackes a skore,
Bids me seeke death and wish to live no more.

Yet, for to beare a peece of all my woes,
(And to impart the privie pangs I felt)
From countrie foile a sober wife I choes,
In mine owne house with whom I feldom dwelt :
When thousandes flepte, I waekt, I swet, I swelt
To compas that I never could attaine,
And still from hoem abroed I braek my braine.

The thatcher hath a cottage poore, you see ;
The sheppard knoes where he shal sleepe at night ;
The daily drudge from cares can quiet bee :
Thus fortune sends some rest to evrye wight ;
So borne I was to houle and lande by right,
But in a bagg to court I brought the fame,
From Shrewsbrye towne, a seate of auncient fame.

What thinkes my frindes that thear behind I laft ?
What fault finds she that gave me lief and luck ?
O courting fien ! thou art to[o] cold a craft :
The carter haeth at hoem much better luck.
Well, well, I saye, a due all worldly muck,
Ne houle, nor land, we bear away I knoe ;
I naked cam, and naked hence must goe.

The greatest kyng must pas the self saem way :
Our daye of byrth and buriall are alike ;
Their joye, their pompe, their wealth and rich araye,
Shall soen consuem, like snow that lies in dieck ;
No bucklar serves when sodayn death doth striek,
As soen may coem a poer mans foule to blys
As may the rich, or greatest Lord that is.

Well, ear my breath my body doe forsaek,
My spreet I doe bequeath to God above ;
My bookes, my skrowls, and songs that I did maek,
I leave with frindes that freely did me love :
To flying foes, whoes mallice did me move,
I wyshe in haest amendment of their wayes,
And to the court and courtiars happy dayes.

My fortune strange to strangers doe I leave,
That strangely can retain such strange mishap;
To such as still in world did me disserve,
I wish they may beware of such like trap;
To slanderous tongues, that kill me with their clap,
I wish more rest than they have given me,
And bless those streams that cross and crossed be.

To such as yet did never please man
I give those rymes that nips the galled back;
To such as would do good, and if they can,
I wish good luck, long life, and void of lack;
To currying karts, a whip and collars sack;
And to the proud, that stands upon their brags,
A wayward face, and twenty crabtree staves.

To frowny fyers, that scorn the meaner sort,
A nightcap, hood with foyes, I them bequeath;
To such as follow at others good report
(And sets much store by their own painted sheath)
In lieu of luck I give a willow wreath;
To such as are unnam'd and merits much,
The store I leave that tries the gold by touch.

To gentle race, with good conditions join'd,
I wish more joy than man imagine may;
And fens for poorer I have no money coin'd,
God grant them all a merry marriage day!
To such as doth delight in honest play,
I wish the gold that I have lost thereby,
And all the wealth I want before I die.

Now, frends, shaek hands : I must be gon, my boyes,
Our myrth taeks end, our triumph all is done ;
Our tykling talk, our sports and mirry toyes,
Do flyed away lyke shadow of the fon.
Another coms, when I my race have ron,
Shall passe the tyme with you in better plyt,
And finde good cause of greater things to wryt.

FINIS.

A DISCOURSE HOW

Vertue feames to sleape, and

Justice is ever awaken.

WHEN vertue layd her down to slepe,
and would no longer wake ;
And wicked world did wanton waxe,
as vice would triumphe make,

I fat and mufed all the while
on thinges of wonders weight,
As though our latter judgement daye
at hand were comming streight.

For loe ! eache land and kingdom large,
in compas of my vewe,
Stode all bespred with wailing wightes,
and fodaine forowes newe.

Some ran to rayse dame vertue up,
but none durst stirre her thoe :
Disordred lief kept people back,
and said, let vertue goe.

Dead fleape hath caught her for a space,
to plague proud haguhtie heads,
That wallowes in their wayward willes,
on pleasures wanton beddes.

The feble folke that lives in feare,
and feade in cottage colde,
Were halfe amasd to here the tale
that lawles life had tolde.

Is vertue flombring nowe, alas !
qd. one that felt much wrong :
Than shall the poore with pensyve mynde
complayn of grief to long.

This was no sooner said, but loe !
in fieldes and forestes thick,
I harde a heape of wounded hartes
that pincht were nere the quicke,

Crye out so loude they perft the cloudes,
and in their roaring tewne,
They did pronounce that wretched folke
full sone should come to rewne.

If facred Gods, that guydes the starres
and rules both sun and moone,

Brought not a boxe of precious balme
to falue the mischief foone.

In this discourfe and dolefull brutes,
came revell roughly clad,
And made wilde havocke found the dromme,
as all the world were mad.

And fo was haerbraine broyles abroche,
and men embrued in blode,
Began to strive with ftoute attempts
for rule and worldly good.

The horfe did fee where lay his ftrengh,
and would not rayned bee ;
The oxe forfooke the wonted plowe,
the affe would neades go free,

And flang the burthen on the floore :
thus favage grewe they all,
That had ben tame and meke as lambe,
and long at maifters call.

The common forte, beholding this,
laft labour, care and toyle,
And fought, throw fleights and fnatching shifts,
to thrive and live by fpoyle.

Nowe dullardes were fo quicke of fence,
they gan difpute the cafe,
And sifted finely flowre from branne ;
and had fo trym a grace,

They could beguyle the mylnar smoth,
and make the baker smyle.

It was a world to see the worlde,
and worldlings all the whyle!

When folly wrought by flipper meanes
to reache beyonde the wyfe,
As though blynde Bayards boulnes rude
could blere cleer *Argos* eyes.

Yet divelyshe braynes and depe deceite
did drive such combrous drieftes,
That plainenes, in a pilgrims wede,
was put unto her thieftes.

True dealing was but cauld a doulte,
or els Gods foole, in deade;
Dame flattery claymed frindships place,
yet faild her frinde at neade.

And robbry was good purchase helde,
and lust was follace sweete;
And they were calld the lively laddes,
that had the quickeft sprete.

Som faid lords heftes were held for lawes,
but those were *Chawfers* woordes;
And faith did faile in old priestes sawes:
tushe! all this was but boordes.

Yet in flat earnest this was trewe:
the gredy groppt for gaine,

And hungry guts might gnaw their gommies,
and still in grief complayne.

And private profite prowle for pence,
her purse laye open wyde :
Thus publike state with rufull noyse
unto the heavens cryed

For helpe and succour to the harmes,
that fell on curfed earth ;
That never yet was pure and free
from plagues since *Abels* birth.

O wyttles wightes ! the Goddes said thoe,
that fittes above the skies ;
O people vayne ! why do you pewle,
and make such wretched cries ?

Thinke you, we have forgotten cleane
the feble force of man ?
Sawe we not what should come to passe
ere first the world began ?

Yees, fuer, and ordeind goodly lawes
to stay your strougling states ;
And alwayes helde up justice still,
to ende your sharpe debates.

Are you so childishe to beleave,
though vertue seame to dreame,

That we will fuffre ftactly vice
to ftrive againft the ftream?

No, no; our lawes fhall linke you fafte
in leages of love full long;
And learne eche man to know his owne,
and what is right and wrong.

The pyllars that holdes up the houle,
and props unto the fame,
Are known among good workemen all,
of fuch as buildings frame.

What comforts kinges and comon weales,
and keepes the lande in awe,
But noble rule and threatning fworde,
and worthy upright lawe?

Though vertue doe not fhine fo bright
as fhe was wonte of olde,
In iuftice feate, if you lifte fearcher,
her beames you may beholde.

At times and termes as temperance tunes
the ftringes that are amiffe,
So lawe reformes the wilfull worlde
when out of fquare it is.

And iuftice fuer fhall never die,
whyle *Solons* name is known;
And whiles that wytte and reafon learnes
each man to know his owne.

These wordes thus spoke of fearful Gods,
the world shranke back for feare,
And I belevd myne adell hed
these thinges had dreamed theare.

FINIS.

CHURCHYARDES DREAM,
Written to Master William Harbert, Esquier,
*dwellinge at Sainct Gillians by Carlion
in Walles.*

SOM men affyrm dreams are untrue,
But what the judgment is of you
I know not yet ; but well I thinke
They may proceed of meat or drinke
Receyvd before the sleep we take :
Complexcions often fancies make ;
And talke of thyngs oer night befoer,
Breedes dreams in som mens heds great ftoer.
But this you know, the powrs above
Our earthly vessels heer doth move
By cowrs as they are of thear kinde,
And sets the moshons in our minde ;
As oen might fay, we nothyng do
But planets pricks us thearunto.

Loek how the heavens order is,
The earth must follow : grant me this,
Than we that of the earth are maed
Must needs obey the heavens traed.
Fowre ellements of eatch ye kno,
Ar all we feell ; the ruell is so :
Som won moer mixt thearwith we fe,
And subiect moer than others be
To them among us heer remayn.
But what of that ? to break my brayn
About disputing of futch thing,
Or yet my wits in erors bring,
I need not feartch so deep a cace ;
I shuld but ron beyond my race.
Yet of som dreams that aer devien,
Let me a lytell heer defien ;
For privey warnings God doth give
By sleeps to thoes that heer do live.
Was not the dreams of kings fought owt
By Danniell, who maed cleer eatch dowl,
That by the faem might ries or spring ?
Takes God no caer but for a king ?
Is not the poer to him as deer,
The meanest as the greatest peer,
Thoght on of him ? yeas ; than, besuer
By dreams somtims he doth procuer
A man to think on things to com :
A dream may speak that seemeth dom ;
A dream haeth lief, though sleeps full ded
Breed fancies in an idell hed.
Som when they waek do soen forget

Noet.

What sweaunons in the night they met,
And drives the day to end with all,
And at the length unwaeres doth fall
In that great floed, or in that fstream,
That they aer warnd of by thear dream.
But I, that for to shon is glad,
The danger of a dream I had,
Do tell the faem : loe ! this hit was.
Me thought from hoem as I did pas
Unto your howse, you said that tied
You had a jorney for to ried :
A hors you lent me for the faem,
So forth we roed and had good gaem :
We lawght and chukled all the way,
But, as you kno, that after playe
Coms caer and forow, fo it fell,
When I belevd that all was well.
You frownd, and flang from me far of [f],
And as I used was to fkoef,
I gested still and followed fast ;
But you oer roed me at the laft,
And for I would not tier my nag,
I fhapt my self behind to lag.
A loen I prickt, and palfray spord,
And mutch I thought, yet spaek no word,
Save that I said, with voyce full loe,
Whate ! will my frind forsaek me foe ?
What new told taell doth torn him thus ?
No taell, a toy hit is, ywus,
No toy, he is to wies therfore.
Som thing hit is, yea les or more,

The dream
begyns.

But what hit is I need not fear,
For feartch my confience evry whear,
And cleer it standeth in eatch traed,
To him since he my freende I maed.
Thus mufing on mi giltles cace,
I then began to meand my pace,
And as the devell wold hit foe,
That I ill hap fhuld not forgo,
(When mifcheevs com they fawl on heap)
My hors did ftart and gan to leap :
The jaed, I think, had feen a fpriet.
He maed the fier ries from his feet
Out of the ftoens whear he did tramp.
Lord! than howe I did ftajer and ftamp,
And thruft the fporrs in to his fied,
But girth and faddell baed abied :
They fell from hors full all to broek,
And in the myer, flat like an oek
I lay a long ; but what of that ?
Ear I roes up, and found my hat,
Which laye faft by an elders roet,
My hors was gon, and I on foet.
My face with dirt was fo araid,
Hit maed the hors thear of afraid ;
For as I ran the jaed to get,
The poer plain people that I met
Thoght fuer I had bin clean beftrought .
Oen gave me way, a nother laught ;
The third faid, Sir, go washe your face.
But ftill I had my beaft in chace,
And ran, not fwearing, half a myel,

But toek the jaed agaynst a ftiell :
By that was curttals bryedell loft,
And I might ryed (but not in poft)
On gawldid back and carrayn boens.
The harneys, faddell, all at oens,
Was broek, as fayd afoer I have :
Than could I call no oestlar knave,
Nor face him down ; my gear was gon,
And pickt away by hangers on
That follow geafts to evry in,
By shift fom payre of boets to win :
Sutch fitchars have fo great a lack,
They steall the faddell from the back ;
But I that brought a faddell out
Might ried now like a gentil lout.
Thear was no thief to shrowd my shaem,
But plaen poer Tom to bear the blaem.
What needs moer words of this to speake ?
Get up I did on hors full weake :
My girdell was the bridell than,
Thus rode I like a clean yong man.
A greater fier was in the straw,
As in the dream me thought I saw
A further mischeef after this.
I founde and felt, loe ! this it is.
As I my jorney thought to take,
The horffis backe a two it brake ;
Out stept his bones, in fell my cors
Amid the belly of the hors.
I looked still whan he would fall :
He seemd to have no harm at all,

Noet.

Note.

And kept the way, and boer it out.
 With that I would have tornd about,
 To see if all belongd him to
 Would sarve as they wear wont to do :
 His lims, I mean, which wear so foer
 That he had mind to turn no moer,
 But hoenward held, as fast a mayn
 As any jenet could of Spayn,
 Or Irysh hobby fayre and fat.
 I would not have beleeved that,
 If one had tolde it for no lie,
 But sure I saw it with mine eye,
 As well as in a dream I might ;
 I lay no hed on things by night,
 As in the day I had them seen :
 This was of troeth, and this I ween
 Hath diffrence far ; for troeth is found,
 And weenyng dwels on doubtfull ground.
 But sene I com unto this claufe,
 Now will I talke, and sho som cause
 Of dreams, and let the matter rest,
 Of my deformed broke backt beaft.
 Yet shall my pen heer after playn
 Unto my porpos turn agayn.
 Thear was a man, my self might be,
 That in a dream did think to se,
 A fargant com with maece in hand,
 Who sayd, Good sir, I pray you stand :
 I you areft for det, you knowe
 To whom the money you do owe ;
 And if you have forgot the som

Note.

Unto the counter you muſt com,
And to your accyon anſwer make.
What, knave! qd. he, thou doeſt miſtaek
The man, I think, that thou doeſt ſeek;
I owe not all the world a leek:
Whearfoer I liſt not the obaye.
He drue his ſword and maed a fray.*
Clobbs! cried the ſargant, all in fear:
Out cam the touns men every whear,
And from the wind mill this dreemd he,
Whear hackney horſis hyred be:
This man was driven by plain ſtrength,
And ran in to a church, at length,
That at Saint Larance laen end ſtands,
Yet cowlde not ſkaep the ſargants hands.
Forth was he broght, and mannaeſt foer,
But frinds he fownd (to ſalve the foer)
Among the ſargantts, all on heap,
So that unto the goet in Cheap,
He broght was than, and thear to fend
For frinds to make of this an end;
Which was fownd owt, and had diſcharg,
And whear he wold he went at larg.
Loe! thearwith did this man awaek,
Yet of his dream diſcours did maek
Unto oen *Feeld*, with whom he lay:
Who baed him not go forth that day,
For by a figuer fownd he had,
If he went forth he ſhuld be lad
Unto the countter, or ſkaep hard.
This man did littell that regard.

Jhon Feeld by
Wakfeeld.

Think you (q. he) the planets may
Cause me to find ill luck this day,
As though they had the ruell of man ?
Do what youe will, said to him than
His bed fellowe, who straightway roes,
And out of doer full fast he goes.
The dreamer followd as he might,
When clothes wear on and day was light ;
But he no foenner in the street
But, loe ! a fargant did he meet,
And, as before you told I have,
Hit came to pas, so God me save.
This is no fable, maed for mirth ;
For by that lord that maed the earth,
The heavens too, and all thear in,
Beleeve me nowe this thing haeth bin
Laet in the raing of Mary, queen,
And then the proef of this was seen.
All men have not a gift a like :
Som god doth warn befoer he striek,
Som have groffwitts, som heds devien ;
For divers gracis god doth sien
To man, as pleaseth him to shoe :
Whear for let us confes and knoe
He maed not man so viell a thing,
And set him heer, as lord and king
Of all the works he did creat,
But he taeks caer for mans estaet,
And reasons with man every owre,
And in his vessails still doth powre
What lickor he thynks meet therefore.

Noet.

Noet.

The pot can never boill no moer,
Than coek doth list to put thear in,
For coek maks broth, boeth thick and thin.
The pottar, likwies, hath in choyce
In which pot he will moest rejoyce ;
Which vessaill is for honour maed,
And which must farve a servyell traed.*
The pottar knoes and fashons all,
Ells blind and weak we might him call :
If pot, or any vesseill cleer,
To other porpos farved heer,
Than he befoer haeth ordaynd plain,
To whom the use of potts pertain.
As I might say, a gardnar good,
Yet never throwly under stood
What weeds and flowrs wear meet to gro
With in his gardain ; even foe
Is that as true that God doth want
Foerfyght of any earthly plant,
That in his vienyard beareth graepps.
You grant that God doth give men shaepps,
And doth he gyve but form aloen,
A picktuer wrought of fleash and boen.
And lets man think what thought he will,
Doth not he give him wit and skyll,
And sets futch thoughts a mid mans hart,
As can not com by kind, nor aert.
If God have geven lief and breath,
And in his hand have lyef and death,
How should not he, nowe would I lern,
The minds of men befoer defern,

Eaer they or thought what they shalbe,
If God the cause therof do se ?
Than must they needs from him proceed,
As ground and roet of eatch good deed.
For what weer fleash, that no lief had,
And lief from feelyng wear as bad,
And feelyng coms, by reasons loer :
Than, reason have we not before ?
We do receive of God that gift,
Why than there is no other shift ;
But he that putteth in the fame,
Must needs be master of the game.
If nought be put into the pot
It cannot seeth full well, ye wot :
Who boyls the pot and maks the fier,
Puts things therin at his desier.
A broken pot ye call that still,
That neither sarvs to good nor ill :
An needleffe pot God doth not make,
That will no kynd of licour take.
What pitchard will for water go,
Be it not born ? than, way this so.
No man may thinke a thought, say I,
But it is ordaynd from an hie,
And powred in us by his mean,
That seith evry thyng full clean ;
And knoweth well to what entent
Eatch vessayl at the first was ment ;
And to sutch use as they were wrought,
He letteth them be drawn and brought.
And boldly now if I durst speake,

Note.

I thynke the makars wit weare weake
To form a thyng, and doth not know
To what entent he made it fo.
Than this must follow : if he knue
Of all his works what shuld ensue,
Thear cowers was set in his foer sight,
Ear that he maed the daie and night.
So needs they must befall likwies :
Than shuld we not no cause dispies
That lerns us howe to kno his power,
Which worketh in us everi owre,
A waek, a sleep, at meat, at rest,
We must find lodging for that geast :
He will com in and maek a stoer,
And knock hard at thy conscience doer,
And threaten skorgis for thy sin,
And speak and talk to the with in,
And tell the things that aer amis,
And say, Thow foell ! bewaer of this
Thow uest oft ; thy God I am,
That for to warn the[e] hether cam
To shon the plaegs for the prepaerd.
But if this warning be not hard,
And men in sin still sleep and snort,
And of futch visions maks a sport,
Than shall they feel no dream hit was,
When proef of this doth com to pas.
He that will not be warnd by sleep,
Whan he awaeks may chance to weep.
In Skriptuer have I red fom time
Howe Jhon sawe fowls to heaven clyme,

And Jacob dreamd he sawe the rams
 Leaping this to the choesen lams.
 God doth a peer, yea, evry whear,
 And sleping rownds men in the ear,
 As Job doth say : and I cowlde tell,
 Howe divers awcttors shooes full well,
 That dreams do signifie to som
 Great caers and trobulls for to com,
 And unto other shooes likwies
 Whan mirth and joy thear shall aries.
 I writ not this as for a creed :
 Let men trust dreams as they shall need.
 Som dreams spryng fro a feble brain,
 And som of sicknes and of pain,
 And other subjects mani a on,
 Of which I will devies apon.

Note.

In dreams aer dowts and doble freaks :
 Som sleeps yet in his dream he speaks,
 And riseth up yet not a waek,
 And in the howse mutch noys doth maek :
 He torns the lock and goes his way
 Owt of the doer as at noen day,
 And doth futch thinges as fawlls in hed
 By dream, and after coms to bed.
 He barrs all fast whear he hath byn,
 And never faulls nor breaks his shin,
 Yet seems to sleep yea all the whyell ;
 But he that seeth the faem may smyell,
 And wonder at that idell brayn,
 That in the bed is layd a gain,
 Who laet in sleep a broed he sawe,

A nother fort will feartch the strawe,
And thrust a knief throwe bed and all.
What may we nowe this dreamyng call?
Of our complexions coms this gear,
No, fuer, of som mad freak, I fear,
They ries, they breed, and norrishtt be,
And groes in men by som degre,
That costom maks to folowe kynd,
Or els they spryng on trobled mind,
For charged consens borthend foer
Of som shrewd fact fowl don before,
Which pricks the inward parts of man,
That hed nor fancie rests not than,
Though boddy, as his costom is,
Must sleep or natuer holds with this.
Yet whear the consens is not clean,
Thear seeks the devell for to lean,
And leavs no way that may be fought
To plant ther in dispaired thought;
And maks the dreamar lowd to crie,
He coms! I se him with mine eie;
And sweats for fear: this known I have,
And hard howe som do use to rave,
And start upright as they wear woed.
Some saye hit cometh of a bloed;
A bloed, I fear, as doctors faith,
That springeth of default of fayth.
Som aer of such a weak beleef,
They thinke each mous should be a theef,
And every rat that runs about
Should be a devell out of dout.

Sutch folke as well daer lye aloen,
As I dare eat a loed of stoen.
God never thought was on that day
At night ; than how should any way
Sutch helhoundes sleep ? of devlysh deeds,
Nothyng but fearfull dreams profeeds :
Their minds on mischeef runs so fast,
That feare of God or world is past,
As long as they can finde a maet
To chat with all, to lie or praet,
In fuertie than ; yea all on hoof
They think they stand amid their roef ;
But whan aloen they hap to goe,
Thear consheens doth accues them foe,
They may not fyt, ne sleep, nor rest,
But gnawing worms are in theyr brest,
And trembling thoghts doth them confound.
Theas men must needs now sleep unfound,
Of whoes mad dreams, so God mee speed.
I thinke wise folke ought take good heed,
And give them counsell in this cace,
And learn them for to feell the grace
That God doth promes to us all,
With faithfull hart that to him call.
Good prayer fuer may salve this greef ;
This is a part of my beleef,
And for to prove that faieng true,
I will rehers a thing to youe
Which hath bin trid and trid againe :
Whearfore give ear, I list not fayn.
I knue my selfe, and of laet dayes,

A father, that was much to prayes
In bringing up his babes eatch on ;
He myght be calde a parragon
In teaching youth and using age.
Would God eatch man would wear his bage,
And seek his lyvrey for to have,
Than in thear harts they should engrave
The feare of God, his armor coet,
And all the worship that he goet,
His aermes, his collors and his crest,
His hoep, his curatts for his brest,
His sheld, his fword, his enmies rod ;
And to be shorth, the fear of God
Was all or moest of his delite.
In fleashly tabuls God did write
His law, his fear, and blessed will,
Far past the compasse of our skill ;
I mean within the humble mind
(Of this goodman well bent of kind)
With parfit stamp was printed fast
The law and fear I spake of last :
As all his childern taught he well,
To oen apart this did he tell,
(Moer oftnar than unto the rest ;
Perhaps that boy he loved best)
How if he would his bleffying win,
Than with this ruell he must begin :
First, evry mornyng whan he roes,
Before he had put on his cloes,
He should a follem praier say
To God to keep him all the day,

Noet.

That he did purpose well to spend ;
And whan the day was brought to end,
(And should repayre unto his bed)
Another praier should be fed
Before he slept : if this he did
In evry point, as he was bid,
The father sayd, that God on hie
Would bleffe the place whear he did lie,
And give an angell charge, he fed,
To keep good watch about the bed,
That neither feend nor fearfull fight
Should vex the silly foul that night.
His son that lesson kept full well,
And never from that order fell,
But most devoutly that he usd
Till wanton life had him abuefd,
And made him minde futch follies heer,
As retchlesse youth doth bye full deer.
Whose pleafuers whan the son had caught,
The goodly ruell his father taught
In very deed forgotten was,
And littell did this yong man pas
How he the day or night had spent.
But heer what plaegs was after sent,
What restles sleeps and dreams he had ;
For fom tims, as he had bin mad,
(When in the bed he down was laid)
He did futch things as wold have fraid
The stowttest man that treds in shue :
And farther moer, I may tell youe,
He was aferd him self ful oft,

Note.

For nothing ftoerd by him fo foft
(Wythin the chaember that he fleapt) .
But thearwith under cloes he crept,
And durft not fpeak of any thing,
To be of all the world a king.
Theas fancies did not chang him fo,
But he had torments many moe,
Of other fecret fears with in,
When for to fleep he did begin ;
Which alttred him on futch a fort,
I cannot make thearof report.
Sutch frights and startyng in the bed,
And of his mowth : I have hard fed,
He thoght he faw, and markt hit wel,
A thowfand devells owt of hel
Com ronning on him all at oens :
Som toer his fleafh, fom broek his boens,
Some flang him down, as than he thoght,
And was thearwith in flomber broght,
But ftill his fancies did him fraem
To crie alowd on *Jhesus* naem.
Yea, futch as flept with him have hard
That he the bleffed naem prefard
Of *Jhesus* fuerly firft of all ;
And whan thear on this man did call,
His raeg of fforms began to flaek,
And ftreight from fleep he did awaek.
Than would he loek unto the Lord,
And fo the fathers ruell record :
No foener was a prayer faid,
But fownd as baeb in cradell laid

Noet.

He flept, and hath don oftten fence.
This provs that under Gods defence
Man waeks and fleeps, and dreams fomwhiels ;
And as he at our folly smiels,
A genttill warning doth he give,
Becaufe he would have finners live,
And fo convert, for caufis knoen,
To him that fitts in fared throen.
He gieds and governs evry whear,
And brings the hawty harts in fear,
To mak men knoe from whence we have
The quiet fleeps and reft we crave.
I could of dreams mutch moer refit,
But this fuffifeth that I writ
To fhoe that dreams of many men
Aer true ; or mofhons, now and then,
To mak us way, in ballance right,
That God with wonders works his might ;
And doth in fleep a meffaeg fend
(Unto fom purpofe and fom end)
To man, whoes thoughts and doings boeth
He feeth, and marks what path he goeth.
Nowe, to retorn (I think hit beft),
Whear I did leave, and fho the reft ;
How that my hors, that jomling jaed,
To be at home futch labour maed.
Yet muft I needs now wonder how
This monftrous thyng could bear me throw ;
But things in dreams, ye kno, may feem,
That out of dreams no man will deem ;
As did this to, for who would think

(Or in his hed could let it finke)
That in the bowels of a beaft
Thus I could ried ; or, at the leaft,
How hors away fo faft did trot :
The dream would have it fo, ye wot.
Now when to ftable doer we cam,
The royll ftod ftill as any lam :
Then did I light and went my wey ;
Thear at the hors began to ney ;
He maed fo lowd and shrill a fownd,
As though in funder shaekt the grownd :
I never faw in futch a heat
(Whan on the earth his feet he beat)
Ne beaft, nor man, nor lyvyng thyng ;
And as the bruit therof did ryng
Within your earrs, you cam to fe
What ruell and revell this might be.
Wherwith the hors, agaynft his kind,
In reafon did declaer his mind,
And fpake in order like a man.
But when to talk the horfe began,
You mused, and all your howfe eatch oen
That ftill ftood wondryng thear apon :
But loe ! he told his taell fo well,
And fo reherfid every dell,
How I within his belly roed,
That you than, without moer aboed,
In his behalf fayd unto me :
Is this an honeft pranke of the,
Firft, to offende me as thou knoeft,
Than further in thy folly goeft,

And breaks the back of my poer hors,
And after rideft in his cors :
And not content with that fowl part,
But here agayn returned art,
To fet my hart on anger moer :
Perchance thou maift repent it foer.
This fayd, the hors fell down, ftark ded,
And to another world you fled ;
And left your wife, your childe, and all,
To that which after might befall.
My freend thus gon (q. I), alas !
Mans life is brittell as the glas ;
And with the greef that I did take,
Out of my dream I did awake.
And when at full I had it skand
I tooke my pen and ynk in hand ;
Yea, ear I had put on my cloes,
Or out of bed that day I roes,
This did I write, this did I pen,
In futch a plyght my bed was then.
And, by my troeth, with no more time
I wrate to you this barrayn rime :
Wherfore aſhamd I am to fend
A matter now, fo baſely pend,
To any freend or learned man,
That judgment hath ; as well ye can
Bothe judge and mend the fautes here in ;
Or, when the like is to begin,
A better make ; yet take in worth
Sutch fruit as my baer tree brings forth.
If ſweeter appuls cowlde it yeeld,

Than with fowre wieldings of the feeld,
And futch dry crabs, new faln from tree,
You fhuld not thus presentyd bee.
But whear thear groes no goodly figs,
And fprings hard breers and robbishe twigs,
Out of futch brambuls feek you not,
No moer than of hedg weeds are got.
Howe shuld I hit in *Chaufers* vayn,
Or toutche the typ of *Surries* brayn,
Or dip my pen in *Patrarkes* ftiell,
Sens conning lak I all the whiell?
And baesly have I byn brought up:
I never fipt on knoledg cup,
Nor could com neer, the troeth to tell,
To drink a draught of that fwete well,
That springeth from *Pernafoes* hil.
Wear I oens there to drink my fil,
Or that fair fowntaine might I keep
Among the poets thear to fleep,
I wold fo make my belly fwell
With bibbing of thys worthy well,
That evry word out of my brest
Shuld be a fentence at the leaft;
And evry fentence from my hed
Shuld way in weight a pownd of led;
And evry lyen with pen I wraet,
Shuld wear garland lawreaet:
I mean, my ftiell fhuld be fo hie,
That it shuld sho I fucked drie
Pernafoes fpring, and mak men think
If ever poets pen and ynke,

Or well cowntcht liens did praies attayn,
My vers shuld evry tong constrain
To give me lawd : but all a mis,
And out of frame the matter is.
I never knue what Muefis ment ;
No gift of pen the gods me fent,
But futch as in wied world I fownd,
And digged up in ftoony grownd,
Whear I do tomble up but ftoens ;
And if I hap a mong the boens,
Whear any poet hath bin layd,
Lord God ! than well am I a payd,
And as good reliks I them hold,
That is but dros to fpeak of gold.
Thogh they alyve wear at my call,
And I could not attain at all
No part of their deep fecret fkill,
I shuld be but a hobblar ftill.
Yet hobbull forth I muft needs nowe,
For if I fould let goe the plowe,
And bakward loke how I have don,
Than all wear mard I had begon :
For as the fawts to mend I foght,
I might in futch difpair be broght,
That I fhuld fling the pen afyed.
Shuld every one that shoetteth wied
Give oer the paffime ? God defend !
An artchars hand may daily mend,
A writars fkill may riepper be :
He ftombleth now that wel may fe,
And fawll no whit a nother daie.

Alas, poer foell ! what do I say
To help my self, as thoghe thear might
Com unto me a cleerer light ?
No, no, the mist is great, I fe,
That is betwen the son and me ;
The black cloudes of unconnyng darke
Do cover clean the whitor mark
I seeke to hit ; I rove far of,
And biet a peece, but on that loef
Whear other cuts a cantell great :
At knowledge doer I do but beat,
And knock, whan thoufands steppeth in.
God knoes, I cannot finde the gin,
Nor may fet hand apon the latch ;
Yet take they as great payn that watch
To enter thear, as those, I say,
Whom lernyng shoes the reddy way.
But they deserve the prayfes moeft
That knowledge wins in any coeft ;
And for my luck was never futch
Taquaynt my self with knoledge mutch,
I seeke no prayfe ; but thank I crave
For my goodwill : and for I have
In verse set forth this dream at full,
In deed I did no fethers pull
From other byrds, to patch this pluem ;
But as in hed I had a ruem,
Or fancie better might be naemd,
So all this dream here have I fraemd,
Accordyng as in thought hit fell,
Whearfore, I pray you, take it well.

FINIS.

Now noet, you redars of this dream,
And of the garment rip the seam,
And se what lies in folds of cloeth ;
I mean, marke how this matter goeth,
And how my dream, against my mynde,
Tooke force and vertue as I finde.
I dreamd I lost a freend in deed,
Yea, futch a freend who now should need
Will say that I a jewell lost.
But now to speake that sarveth most
Unto my dream, and purpose here.
The same self day, the owre and yere,
That I did dream my freend was gon
(And he at layser lookt thear on)
The self same week, he bad faerwell
To all the worlde ; when passing bell
A witnesse was to that a due.
For xx yeeres the man I knue,
But if to me (good God would give)
The grace that I ten skore should live,
I wear right fuer, in all these daies,
To meet with noen so worthy prayse.
O *Harbert* ! thou dost harber now,
Whear I, if I could compas how,
Would have a harbour for my barke :
But thow in light, and I in darke,
Are sevred farre, the moer my doell,
And fuerrer harbred is thy foell.
In wicked world no harbor is,
The end of labor is ovr blis,

Whear *Harbert* hugs in Abrahams brest,
And whear the choesen lambs shall rest. .

FINIS.

A TAEI OF A FREER,
and a Shoemakers Wyef.

IN Waels thear is a borrow town,
 Carmarden hight the fame,
Whear dwelt somtimes a lusty freer ;
 I neede not sho his name.
This freer was fat and full of fleash,
 a jolly myrry knave,
Who with the goffips of the town,
 him self could well behave.
Thoes welthy wives and thrifty daems
 could never mak good cheer,
Nor well dispuet of Peeters keis,
 if absent wear this freer.
He said his mattens in thear eares,
 and gospell at thear bed,
And spaerd no farves for the quick,
 nor caerred for the dead.
With abbotts eas and faering wel,
 this freer so wantton was,

That neither maid, nor married wief,
his dorttour doer might pas
Without some stop : futch staells he laid
to make them stomble in,
That by his lyef men gest he thought
that letchry was no fyn.
A loving freer, good fellow like,
in thoes daies was he held ;
In evry corner of the town,
good compneie owt he smeld ;
And as ye kno, in hauntyng longe
all fortes of people thear,
He must finde out som baytyng place,
a mistres fowl or fear,
A deyntie morfell for his toeth :
these freers lovd well to faer,
Though som were pleasd with cheefis stil,
som fownd a better shaer,
As did this honest brother in Christ,
by goffeping about ;
Who, whan he wold a hakney ried,
had fownd a palfray out :
A nag mutch of a womans height,
that used for to bear
Moer sacks perchance unto the myl,
than corn was griended thear.
I not declaer what trim confaits
he gave her all the whiell,
Ear he obtaind the thing he fought,
howe he his tong could fiell,
To talk and mince the matter well,
the better to disgeast ;

And how full oft at morrow masse,
his myftres could he feaft,
And after noen to gardens walk,
and gatherd poefies gaie,
And woer them cloeffly in his cowll,
as he did farvis faie :
Nor can not fhoe you half the feats
he wroght to please his trull ;
But thofe moeft fit for you to read,
heer put in riem I wull.
A fhuemakar, that held a fhop
farre from his dwelling place,
A faire wife had, a good brown weantch,
and com of no il race.
Som fai of waggtaills, pretti foells,
a kindred great and good,
That knoes what fhears wil farve the torn,
when fhroes will fhaep a whood.
The cheef of this great lynnage leads
thear lives like holly nons,
That for releef in gadding time
a bowt the cloifter rons ;
A catter wawlling oens a week,
in breath to keep them well,
Leaft virgins fhuld fom furffet taek,
when they lead aeps in hell.
This woman went not out of kind,
and, fuer, for Simons fake
She ufd great deeds of charitie,
and mutch a do did make.
Saint Simon was a godly man,
the freer might fo be cald ;

Note.

I towth no further leaft he kick,
for, fuer, his backe is gald.
A live the man was many yeers,
fens abbaies wear fuprest,
And dwelt not farre from Cardief town,
when written was this jeft.
But to my taell let me retorn :
this woman feldom faild,
The morowe maffe at fowre aclok,
to fee how Chrift was naid
Unto the croff: to whom fhe kneeld,
with boek and beads in fift ;
And for devofhion many times
this gentill freer fhe kift.
At evry Pater nofter whiell,
which was a prefhoes thyng,
And Jefus ! how hit did her good
to heer her lubbor fmg.
And whan he tornd about his face,
and loeked throwe the queer,
She fkrat her hed, fhe fat on pricks,
and crept the awter neer.
This coftom kept fhe many daies,
the freer thear of full glad ;
Yet ftill refard his other fport,
till better time wear had.
You muft conceyve, this mirry man
in jeafts and lyght confaits
His hed was fet, and for the faem
full oft he laid his baits.
To lawghe and pas the time away,
fuch toyes he would devife,

That few men, for the mirth therof,
the matter could dispise.
Upon a day apoynted was,
this wife, as was her use,
Should early come to morrow masse;
there might be made no skuese.
She kept her owre, and hard she kneeld
without the dorttour doer:
The freer cam forth and hæld her in,
and flang her on the floer.
Fie, fie, fir freer! she cried a pace,
but what should more be fed?
She was content to take her ease,
and leap into the bed.
And, as myne aucthor doth declare,
the fownder for to sleepe,
She had no more apon her thoe,
than hath a shoren sheep.
Syr *Simkin* had no poynts to lowfe,
in, cowll and all, he skips:
God fend my freer well forth agayne!
the moen was in the clips.
How long he lay, or what he did,
in foeth, I cannot tell;
But at the leyngth the sexton went,
and range the serves bell.
The freer wiht rope about his neck;
the mattens was begun
That he that moern would sing or fay,
and all the lessens dun.
Yet up he must for fear of check,
his course was com to ries:

Note.

The night before he tooke his rest,
to heale his bleared eyes.
A law there was within that howse,
who slept the farvis out,
In fraettry should be hoyft full hie,
and whipt like breetchlesse lout :
Whearfore to tinder boxe he stept,
and light a fies in haest ;
And as he gyrded knotted kord
full hard about his waeft,
Lye still, sayd he unto his geaft,
I must go take some payn,
And singe a psalme within the queer ;
but I will come agayne.
Out goes he then : that likte her not,
she durst not lie aloen
For feare of buggs. Thus leave I now
a bed this good wife Joen,
And tell you howe in queer full lowd
this shaven kock he kroes,
And drownd his fellows evry choen,
he fange so in the noes :
But as he tornd the plain song book,
full smoethly cowlde he smiell,
Yet noen of all the covent could
perceyve him all the whiell.
To mend his mirth and make him lawghe,
a fancie fell in thought :
He sawe the owner of the beaft
that he had ryd for nought,
The housband of the wife, in deed,
that he in bed had laft,

Who walkt with in the churche beneath,
all carelesse of this craft.
Be God, thought he, I wyll goe prove
this man if he do knoe
His wife by meafuring her foet,
or mark a pon her toe ;
For if I so disceave the foell,
and make the wife a ferd,
He nor his wyef is near the wors,
a hear not of his berd,
And I shall mutch the better be,
and laughing have at will :
Thus evry way, and be my luck,
I shall have sport my fill.
Down went this good religeous man
whear hornsby housband walkt,
And cortchy made, and dowkt full loe ;
and as he with him talkt,
Ia have (qd he) known thee right longe,
and still, the troeth to say,
I have thee fownde a faithfull frend
in every kynde of way.
A customar thou hast of me ;
my money I bestowe
On thee, before all other men
that dwels within thy rowe.
And to be playn, I love thee well,
and playner now I am ;
Than, give good eare, I shall declaer
whearfore to thee I cam.
But wife and waerly use my words,
and keep my counsell boeth :

Note.

Thy promis is sufficient band ;
I will no further oeth.
This man full well he knue his good,
who cortched to the grownd :
Sweet fyr (qd he) tell on your mind,
I am your beadman bownd.
Thou knoeft, my neybor, men must live,
and have a wentch somtime,
And we, poer freers, must keep it cloes,
for fear of open crime.
It wear a spot unto our houle,
a sklandor to our name,
When we have sport, if all the world
fhuld understand the fame :
For God himself doth give us leave,
as thou hast hard ear nowe,
Althoughe the world we do disseave
in keping of our vowe.
I am to long in preaching thus,
and time I do abues :
I have a wentch for whom thou must
go make a pair of fhues :
Let them be good ; when I thee pay,
a penny more to boet
I shal the[e] give. I lake (qd he)
the meafuer of her foet.
Than boldly spake this bare foet freer :
by God, that shalt thou have,
If thou keep close and follow me,
els call the freer a knave.
The streight playn path to dortter, than,
they tooke the way full right,

The freer before ; but you must note,
it was not full day light,
Wherefore the man cam farre behind,
the freer went in a pace,
And caufd his wentch, the others wife,
right cloes to hide her face.
When entred was this honest man,
put forth thy foet (qd he)
The freer, I mean, which at that time
the bolder man might be.
She thrust her leg out of the bed,
but hed fast under cloes
She kept ; and curft the faufie freer
a hundreth times, God knoes.
The workeman tooke his meafure well,
and had no further caer ;
The freer well laught within his fleeve,
thus pleased both they aer.
But how the wife contentid was,
let wyves be judge here in,
That from their housbands bed fomtim
in futch like cace hath bin.
Yet let me fhoe how fhe did quake
and tremble all the whiell,
And wifht the roeprrip hangd full hie,
that did her thus begiell ;
And how for feare her body was
on water every part,
Here after fhall you kno likewise
what hate was in her hart,
Which for the time fhe coverd wel,
and near a word fhe fpake.

Her husband haested to his shop,
and so his leave did take.
I have a payre of shues (qd he)
(which I shall bryng a non)
All reddy made; for my wives foet
and hers I think both oen.
Ye fay the troeth, good moen, thought she,
the freer hath playd the knave;
Make for your wife what shues ye list,
the measure twise you have.
The freer rons forth, the man went hoem,
the woman lay a space,
As she had bin in swadlyng clowts,
and durst not sho her face.
When she had found her self aloen,
she roes, and speed did make
To be at home ear her goodman
his breakefast cam to take.
As in her house she did arive,
she bard the doer full fast,
And burst a weepyng like a babe,
and this she sayd at last.
O, he shameles knave! not pleasd to spoill
me of my wively fame,
But at my fautes thy frantik hed
must make therof a game.
Could not my breatch of wedlockes band
content thee, but in spyt
Thou must devise so leawd a fact,
my fayth with frawd to quyt?
Howe dydst thou knoe, I durst not stoer,
that towched was so neer?

I might have skapt my housbands wrath,
but thou hadst bought it deer.
If I had spoek, as oens I thoght
to do, my fear was futch,
Thy folly had bin tentimes moer,
though mien were very mutch :
He might have toke his wife again,
and knockt full well thy paet,
And shavd thy crowne a nother fort
than fawls for thien estaet ;
Or els he might have shaemd us boeth,
and so refuefd his wief :
I could have livd, but whear woldst thou
have led a frears lief ?
O beaftly wretch ! that of thy self
haft had so small regard :
As for the knavery shewed to me,
I will it well reward ;
Not for the mallice due therfore,
but that I minde to leave
Example to thy fellows all
how they their frinds disceave.
Did I procuer thee to this deed ?
did not thy gospels sweet,
And momblyng oft, make me beleve
a devill was no sprete ?
Didst not thou seeke me every owre,
to sho me thy good will ?
And brought me grapes and goodly fruets
among my goffips stil ?
Thou caerst not if ten couple of hounds
did follow me full fast,

And I a fox wear in the field,
fins now thy geer is past.
Did not thy flyryng face full oft
frame me thus to thy fist?
Than waft thou hot, now art thou cold,
or warms the whear thou list.
A warmyng place within the towne,
here after mayst thou lacke,
And mis perchance so meet a feat
to drinke a cup of sacke.
Thou keepst not futch a diet still,
nor art not so presies,
But as the thirst doth com agayn,
thy appetite will ries.
I pray to God it be my lot
to see thee at that stay!
So thus the woman held her peace,
and out she went her way
Unto the market, for to seeke
futch thinges as hozwives doe:
You know, that have more skill than I,
what doth belong theartoe.
The poer man brought the freer his shues,
and thought no harm thearin,
And to his labour did return,
his living for to win.
His wief and he, as they wear wont,
full quiet dayes did lead:
He near perceyved by her shue,
whear she awry did tread.
She went as upright in the street,
and with as good a grace,

And fet apon her follies past,
 in deed as bold a face,
As she that never maed offence ;
 for custum breeds a law,
And maks them keep their countnance trim
 that ones have broek a straw.
Well, all the winter passed forth
 this couple at theyr will,
The wief her counsell kept full cloes,
 the poer man ment noen ill ;
But as the spryng cam on a pace,
 the freer waxt wanton toe,
And fayn would nag ; but credit lost,
 he knue not whear to wooe,
And so bethought him of the prank
 he playd in way of sport,
And fought to falue the foer agayn,
 with words and medfons short.
So he devisid amends to make,
 and turn hit to a gest,
And thought to laugh the matter out,
 as it was meet and best.
And as by chance he met this wief,
 God speed, sweet hart, (qd. he)
I marvell why these many dayes
 you are so strange to me.
The fowlers myrry whiftell now
 must needs betray the byrd ;
The wielly wief now shaept her tong
 to give the freer a gird.
Not strang (qd. she) but that in faith
 I did unkindly take

Note.

C C

The part ye playd ; and yet I thought
it was for favours faek,
Or for fom mirth ; for if of fpight
it had byn wrought, I kno
I should have had some shaem ear this,
but fuer I finde not fo.
I fwear by good saynt Francis, daem,
the troeth thou sayst in deed ;
Whearfoer let pas futch follies old
that may nue quarrels breed.
And be my freend ; thou hast good wit,
thou knoeft now what I mean :
Let all old jests, long gon and past,
be now forgotten clean.
The wief, thus findyng fortuen good
to compas that she would,
A gentill lientwig gan she mak
to tak the freer in hold ;
Yet shaept to save them harmles boeth
from blot and worldly shaem,
And quit the knack, so she might laughe,
and have thear at fom gaem.
Well, fir (quoth she) I kno at full
the meanyng of your mind,
And would to God fom honest way
for you now I might find.
My husband haply may me mis
if I should com to you,
Than, our old fatches will not farve,
we must devies a nue.
A collour must the paynter cast
on poests and patched wawls ;

Who taeks away a stomblyng stock
shall freely skaep from fawls.
A jellows toye is taken foen,
a trifull breeds mistrust;
Great danger folows fowll delits,
as sklander folows lust.
If will be won with worldly shaem,
the pleafuers torns to payn;
Whearfor we need a doble cloek
to keep us from the rayn.
When that my husband is in shop,
if you the pains will taek
To com unto my howse betimes,
thear we will myrry maek.
But com as foen, and if youe may,
as any daie apeers;
The way ye knoe unto my howse,
hit standeth by the Freers.
I wyll, fayd he, and fight thear with,
so wrong her by the hand;
But littell of the matter yet
the foel did understand.
As beettell brains are broght in breers,
before they fe the snaer,
So this wife wodkok in a net
was caught ear he was waer.
The time cam on, the freer was there,
and up the stayers he went.
A cup of malmfie (qd. the wife)
now would us boeth content
The littell boy that is beneath
shal foen go fetch the fame.

Take money with thee, qd. the freer :
so thus goes down the dame
Unto the boy, and bad him run
unto the shop above,
And bid his maister com in haest,
if he his wief did love,
For sick she was. But, boy, qd. she,
than, trodg thowe for the drink.
O boy! I fear that I shall fownd
befoer thow com, I thinck.
Out flings the lad, up goes the wife,
and at a windowe pride,
Untill at length farre of[f] ful well
her husband had she spyde.
Alas! go hied the quickly, freer,
fayd she, if that thow can,
For heer at hand, I do not fain,
thear commeth my good man.
Heer is no cornar to get owt,
ful woe is me ther foer!
Nowe shal we by our pastime deer,
and pay for pleafuers foer.
Now all the myscheef wilbe mien,
because I have the heer;
Nowe shall my honest naem be broght
in queftion by a freer.
Wel, nowe thear is no nother shift,
but heer the bront to bied,
Except that in this littel cheaft
thy felf nowe canst thowe hied.
Now chues thow whether open blaem,
or secreet prifon fweet,

In theas exstreams and haest is moest
for present myscheef meet.
The freer to find som reddy help,
was pleasd and well a paid,
So in the cheast this great wies man
is crept ful foer afraid.
She lokt the same, and clapt the keys,
close under bolstor fuer,
So layde her down apon the bed,
and did foer fits enduer,
Or faynd to feell about hir brest;
futch grieps she sayd she felt,
The groening of the same did make
her husbands hart to melt.
How now, deer wife! what ayleth thee?
the simple foule sayd than;
Fie, wief! pluck up a womans hart.
Yea, husband, God knoes whan,
Quoth she, if aquavite now
I drinke not out of hande,
I have a stich so foer, God wot,
I can nor sit nor stand.
Thou hast a bottell in the house,
I daer well say, qd. he,
Of aquavite laetly boght,
thear may no better be,
Within thy cheast: where are thy keyes?
I kno not, by my life;
Said she, you fet moer by a lock,
than you do by your wief.
Ye wus, and ye wear ficke, I should
the locke right foen up break.

That shalbe don [q. he], you need
 therof no moer to speak.
 A hatchet toke he in his hand,
 and stroek hit futch a bloe,
 The chaember shaekt, the freer he quackt,
 and stonk for fear and woe.
 The cheast with iron barrs was bound,
 which made the goodman sweate :
 The freer, like doctor Dolt, lay still,
 in dreed and danger great,
 (And durst not stir for all the world)
 his corrage quite was gon :
 The poer man had a pig in poek,
 had he loekt well thear on.
 The lock was good, that knue the wief,
 who baed her husband strik ;
 He layd on loed, the frer with in
 that sport did littell liek.
 At length the bands began to lowse :
 the wife had eye therto ;
 She feard if he did strike agayn
 the locke would fuer undo.
 Than, thought she on a womans wiell,
 which never fayles at need :
 If freer wear seen, than was she shaemd ;
 no, no, she toek moer heed.
 O hold your hand ! you kill my hed
 (q. she) to heer you knock :
 Now am I easd ; great harm it wear
 to spill so good a locke.
 My stich is gon, than let me sleep,
 and rest my self a whiell.

Note.

The goodman went unto his shop,
the wief began to fmiell.
When she had fent away the boy,
all thinges in quiet wear ;
She roes and went to ease the freer,
that lay half dead for fear :
Which resurrection who had feen
must needs have laught at least ;
First how he lay, than how he loekt,
and trembled like a beaft.
Nowe am I quit, q. she, fir freer,
and yet you aer not shaemd,
And throw a woman who you skornd,
your folly nowe is taemd.
This tael so ends, and by the faem
you se what freers have byn ;
And howe theyr outward holly lives
was but a cloek for fin.
Heer may youe se howe plain poer men,
that labors for thear foed,
Aer soen disseavd wyth fottel snaeks,
of wicked serpents broed.
Heer, under clowd of matter light,
som words of weight may pas,
To make the leawd abhoer fowl lief,
and se them felves in glas.
Heer is no terms to stoer up vice ;
the writtar ment not foe,
For by the foill that folly taeks,
the wies may blottes goe.
The moer we se the wicked plaegd,
and painted plain to fight,

The moer we pace the paeth of grace,
and feek to walk upright.

FINIS.

THE SIEGE OF EDENBROUGH

Castell in the xv yeer of the raigne of our fove-
raigne Lady Queen Elizabeth : at whiche service

Sir William Druery, Knight, was generall,

havyng at that time under him these

captaynes and gentlemen

folowyng.

*The names of the Captaines
that had chardge.*

*The Gentilmens
names.*

Sir Francis Ruffell.
Captayne Read.
Captayne Eryngton,
maister of the ordinance
and provost marshall.
Captayne Pyckman.
Captayne Yaksley.
Captayne Gamme.
Captayne Wood.
Captayne Cafe.
Captayne Sturley.

Sir George Carye.
Sir Henrie Lee.
M. Thomas Cecyle.
M. Mighell Cary.
M. Thomas Sutton.
M. Cotton.
M. Kelway.
M. Dier.
M. Tylney.
William Killigrue.

As cause fell out and brought in matters new,
(And bluddy minds fet many a broyl a broetch)
So fouldiers fwarmd, and lowd they trumpet blew,
Whose founde did shoe at hand did warrs aproetch;
Than marshall men, in coats of iron and steell,
With great regard did waite on cannon wheell,
And in the feeld a noble martch they maede
To practife shot, and skowre the rusty blade.

But whan the campes fet foet on Scottissh ground,
(Although the powre and crue was veri small)
They shaept them selves, at drom and trompet fownd,
With push of pyke to give the prowde a fall:
The quarell good the force redoubleth still,
And bold attempt maks way with boe and bill.
It is not strength alone that wins the goell;
Wher currage coms, thear fortune deals her doell.

A wonder great to se so small a band
In forrayn foyll to seek for any fame:
I feldom heer futch matter taen in hand
That conquest gets, and skapeth free from blame.
Bewaer, I faye, the men whoes minds aer good,
And mark the plage of thoes which sucketh blood:
Gainst thorns they kick that rons to wilfull spoyll,
Thear consiens prick that give just folk a foyll.

O *Neroes* broed! O bloody butchars viell!
That striketh down the heds that holds you up.
O wicked snaeks! O serpents full of wiell!
That *Nector* brings, yet gives a poyfined cup.

O *Syrens* fals, that sweetly sings a charm
 That spoyls your felvs, and doth your cuntrey harm.
 O people vayne ! that cuts the branches downe
 That stayes your staet, and still mentayns your crowne.

Your dealyngs rash, and wretched revels rued,
 With sticks did stoer from hive the quiet bees ;
 Your gracles hands in giltlesse bloed imbrued,
 Was in futch fort disdaynd of all degrees,
 That needs must com fom force, with mayn and might,
 To take up wrongs, and set your staet aright.
 The cut throet knief in sheath could feldom rest,
 Sutch mischeef lorkt and lodgd in lawlesse brest.

Two regents
 slayn by fed-
 icus parsons,
 ear this broyl
 began.

Ye neyther spard the hiest hed nor foet,
 The cheefest branch, nor yet the meanest spray,
 But in your rage to ryve up all by roet
 At fullest prime, ye foght the reddiest waie ;
 But he that holds in hand the horsis rain,
 Whan steed bolts owt, cawls Bayard back a gain,
 And so God sent, amid your retchles raeg,
 A quensching coel your fury to a swaeg.

Of zeall and love to knit your harts in peace,
 And stop the stream that oer the banks did ron,
 A noble queen, whoes lief our Lord encrease.
 A stiklar was ear greater greef begon ;
 But stordi minds stoed stifly in thear cace,
 Tyll feble force gave roering cannon place ;
 Than fast in fort they clapt them felvs with speed,
 And maed defence to fave the present need.

A castell strong that never noen assayld,
A strength that stoed on mownt and mighti rock,
A peerles plot that all waies haeth prevayld,
And able was to fufer ani shock
The enmie choes ; and fuer the feat was futch
That might harm all, and feaw or noen cowld tutch,
And thought to be the only fort of faem
Most meet and fit to bear a maidens naem.

Yea, fondrie kynges with sleight did seeke her spoyll,
And threatned oft to throe her in the dust,
But non could boest he gave this mayde a foyll :
With labour lost she sarvd their gredy lust,
And still she stoed like sun among the starrs
(Lyke pucell puer, a perll in peace and warrs)
Which would not, fuer, be bought for gold nor good,
Nor yet well won without great losse of blood.

This lofty feat and lantern of that land
Like loed starre stoed, and loekt oer evry street ;
Whearin thear was a stout sufficient band
That furnisht wear with corrage, wit, and spreet,
And wanted nought that sarvd for their defence,
Or could in fien repulse their enmies thens :
Well stoerd with shot, yea fuer, boeth good and great,
That might far of at will the cuntrey beat.

The castell stoed so strongly, noet it well,
There was no way but one taprotche the fame,
And that self thing was fuer a second hell ;
For smothryng smoke, for shot and fiery flame

It fkowrd the ftreets, and bet the houfes down,
And kept in awe eatch laen within the town :
Nee man nor child could ftoer in oppen fight,
But they wear fuer apon fom fhot to light.

With thondryng noyes was fhot of[f] roeryng Meg,
And throw the thickft fhe thompt orethawrt the waies ;
And whear fhot lyght hit fhavd of aerm or leg,
As thoughe an axe had cut down lyttell fprayes :
The bullets ftill cam whizzing by their cheeks
That prowld about, and fodain danger feeks ;
Here groened oen, and there another lies,
That went to farre, or whear blind bullet flies.

The lively flock that daer do mutch in deed,
Do catch a clap, ear caufe requiers the faem ;
So fom, perhaps, for want of takyng heed,
Did feell the lafh, as flie that fauls in flaem :
But whan of force they muft the battrie plant,
The foldiar fhoes he doth no corrage want ;
Som beat the lowps, fom ply the walls with fhot,
And fom fpy out whear vantage may be got.

For faefties faek of futch as lay a broed,
A trentch was maed to hold the enmye fhort :
With powlder ftill thear peecis faft they loed,
To fkowre the place whear foldiars did refort.
Now might you fe the heds flie up in ayre,
Now cleane defaest the goodly buildyngs fayre ;
Now ftoens faull down and fill the emptie dikes,
And lufly ladds avance the armed piekes.

Nowe cannons roerd and bullets bownft lyk bawls,
Nowe throwe the throng the tronks of wieldfier flue,
Nowe totring towrrs tyept down with rotten wawls,
Nowe fom pakt hens that never faid a due ;
Nowe men wear known, and corraeg plaid his part,
Nowe cowards quaeht and corft all foldyars aert,
Nowe eatch device of death was dayly fought,
And noble faem and lief was deerly bought.

Heer muft you noet, how they with in that hold
In warlyk fort a counter battry maed,
And on thear bravs began to be fo bold,
They thought to lern our men a fyenner traed
(In ufing fhot and planting cannons thear) :
So hoeing thus to put our camp in fear,
They plyed a pace thear practies evry way,
With yron bawls to mak the foldyars play.

And grazing oens apon a peece we had,
They drove a way fom gonnars from thear place :
At vew thear of the enmies waxt fo glad,
They ftowtly ftloed a gainft us face to face.
What ruell is this? qd. than our generall ftreight :
Whear aer theas ladds that flynks a way by fleyght ?
He fkarce defarvs to wear a foldiors coat,
That haeth in deed his dueti thus forgoet.

Note.

But loe ! the bront of mifcheef was fo great,
A[s] feawe or noen, godwot, did that they oght.
He, feing that, ftept in a mid the heat,
And in his hand a fmoking lyntftock broght,

And so gave fier, to shoe howe coraeg must
His credit save, whan he is put in trust.
A part well plaid, a passing point of skill,
That tries great mind, and blaeffeth mutch good will.

The gonnars than shot of a ringing peall
Of cannons great, and did futch cunning shoe
That evry man might se what love and zeall,
And good regard they had to contry shoe;
For in smal time so neer thear mark they weent,
That, streight as lien, in cannon mowth they sent
A shot of owrs, that full twelve inches bears,
Wich all to toer thear peece a bowt thear ears.

That cut the coms of many a bragging kock
That broek the gawll, or gawld the hors to foer;
That was the keye or knak that piekt the lock
That maed som mues th[e]y tryumpt mutch befoer:
Yea, that was hit that mard thear market quit,
And dawnted had thear harts in great despit;
For after this they gan to step a back,
And fawe at hand cam on thear ruen and wrack.

A littell harm doth breed a great mistrust;
A simple storme maks som on seas full sick,
A feeble poef of wind doth raies up duft,
A littell salve full fuer can towth the quick;
A smal attempt maks mighty matters shaek,
A silly spark a foddain fyer doth make,
An easi proef brings hard mishaps to pas,
As this declaers whear all theas myscheeves was.

The happy shot that braek their peece in twayn
Discorraegd clean the boldnes of our foes.
When battails join in feeld and open playn,
Full foen is feen whear that the conquest goes ;
For unto futch that fuer and stowtly stand
Good fortuen coms in toring of a hand :
Yea, whan mans force doth faint and feble^e waxe,
Down weapons goe, and streight they torn their backs.

And fet the world agoynng oens a due,
It is mutch like a stream that hath no stay :
To late comes wit to give them corrage nue,
That fear before hath taught to run away.
What would you more ? the Skots did haft them thens
Wheare first they stode, and fought to make defence,
And cloesly kept the castell as they might,
Not willyng oft to come in open fight.

Note.

Yet ear these things could well be brought to pas,
With baskets byg and thinges to farve the turne,
A croffe the street a travers made there was,
Whiels for a shift wet straw and hey did borne,
And for to plant som playing peeces thear
A mount was rayfd, which kept the foe in fear :
The gunners fuer thear dueti throwly did,
And at that tied was no mans farvyce hid.

The enmies loekt for sucker out of France,
Or help at hoem, if matter so fell out,
For divers thyngs might drop to them by chance,
That reason thought wear hard to bryng a bout ;

For hoep denyes that hap or hazard bryngs ;
 Good luck is fwift as fwallow under wings,
 And thoghe at firft hit coms not that we crave,
 At laft fom help by fortuen men may have,

Note.

Thear frinds far of, and propps at hoem lykwies,
 With great affaires foer greved wear the whiell ;
 And France, ye knoe (whear blod for vengeance cries)
 Had mutch a doe for wikked murthers vyell ;
 A matter ftrange that nowe I muft fkip oer,
 To wryte at full of things I fpaek befoer.
 Thus in extremis the Skots did ftand with in,
 Moer lik to loes than yet to fave or win.

For evry day our men did creep fo neer,
 And bet the wawlls fo flat unto the grownd,
 That in fhort time thear durft not one apeer
 To maek defence, or at the breatch be fownd ;
 Yet ftowtly long, and with mutch manhoed boeth,
 In danger great they ftoed, I tell you troeth,
 And kept thear ftrengh as fafly as they might,
 Though all in vain they toyled day and night.

The Sporre
 was a ftrong
 peece of ftony
 work.

In evry part they wear fo throwly plyed
 With foldiars fleyghts, with fhot and fharp afawt,
 That in the end they wear full fain to hied
 Thear heds from bobs in hollow caves and vawt.
 Firft did they loes the Sporre, a place ful ftrong,
 Which foer anoid the town and foldiars longe,
 And, driven thens, they wear in fine right glad
 To keep futch fkowp as eaflly might be had.

A kind of fhot, that we great bombards call,
Did vex thear wits and brought mutch fear in deed,
And whear that hueg and mighty ftoen did fall
In weaklings brains it did great wonders breed ;
A princis powre doth many a practies shoe
Beyond the reach of common peoples boe ;
And whan their harts are daunted with device,
Their corrage thoe is held of littell price.

And fondrie drifts with out aer put in eur,
Whan they with in do dwell on dreedfull dows.
Who is betrap in penfold cloes is fuer
At need to want a broed boeth ayd and skowts,
And subiect still to mutins and revolt ;
And wilfull ladds, and youth, as wield as colt,
In whom whan toyes and fodain mischeef fawls,
They threat to fling thear captains oer the wawls.

Thoghe wies and waer the cheef and leadars be,
Yet rued and raesh the roeflinge roistarrs aer ;
And whan in fort the bands can not a gre,
The soldiars waxe as mad as is Martch haer :
Now do they jarr, than murmor, mues and skowll,
And fall from words to brawls and quarrels fowl,
And shonning death do seek thear lives to save
By any means and way that they may have.

Whan futch uproerrs is raiesd and fet a gog,
Thear folows streight a storm and flawe of wind,
Than som perforce must lern to leap the frog,
And lyght full loe, for all thear lofty mind.

The danger drivs futch divlyfhe nayels in hed,
That throw difpayr mans hoep is ftreken dead.
Thear might by chance, for any thing I knew,
Sutch byells borft out among the Skotifh crue.

Our mownts were maed fo mutch to our a vaill,
Our gonnarrs cowl'd difmownt what peece they wold ;
No marvell thoghe thear harts with in did quail,
Who did at hand thear own decay behold.
Thear powlder faild, thear water waxed fkant,
Thear hoep is fmall that doth munifhon want :
When with warm blood the waeter cold is boght,
Death maks difpatch, and fells the lief for noght.

In fom great need the caftell ftoed that time,
When on the breatch our fhot and cannons plaid ;
And for thaffault we had not far to clime,
Nor mutch to doe when things were wiefly waid,
Save that eatch wight that led his felows on
Koeht all for faem when breth and lief was gon,
And frankly fwoer to die or win the feat,
Or pas the pieks by fword and dangers great.

A fre confent of faithfull foldiars than
A mong the cheef was fownd by vewe of face.
Afawlt, afawlt ! cried every forward man,
The day is owers, we will poffes the place,
Or leave our boens and bowells in the breatch.
Tys time, qd. they, to charge and not to preatch :
Dispuet no moer, the greateft dowl is paf,
Lets win or loes, fens now the dice aer caft.

With that cam in the generall, full of joye,
And thank't them all that to the afawt wold goe.
As you this daye, qd. he, your livs employ
In farves of our noble queen ye knoe,
So if I live, my pors, my powr and all
(To ferve your torns) fhall reddy be at call :
Thries happy is that captain, fuer in deed, *
That haeth in camp futch soldiars at his need.

A showt full shrill, as lowd as larum bell,
In trench, in tent, and town throw out a roes.
The Skots encloefd, that fat like snayl in shell,
By bruet of this their fatall deaftny knoes ;
And findyng voyd theyr hoep and connyng clean,
They thought it best for lief to maek fom mean,
And rather yeld (ear fword the matter tried)
And suffer shaem, than fo affaut to bied.

Yet divers proves wear maed the breach to vew,
And fom wear flayn that did affayl the faem ;
And whan our men therof the secrets knew,
And found the way to put eatch thing in fraem,
A band or two, with fom of right good race
(When drom did found) did forward martch apace,
And fully bent, resolved leffe and moer,
To win the fort, or loes their lives thearfoer.

Now noble mynds ftept out in formost rank,
And fkornd to be the last should give a charge :
His hap was best that could disarve most thanke,
And might by death his contreys faem enlarge ;

But he moeft viell that could no valuer shoe,
 And he embraft that to the breach would goe:
 A time was com to trie who triumpht moeft,
 Who toek moeft payns, and who did brag and boeft.

And, in efect, the soldiars all wear glad
 To mak short work and se what hap wold doe;
 But, as I said, when that our enmies had
 Well waid theas things, and pawfd apon hit toe,
 They wear content, in plain and simple fort,
 Unto our queen to yeld and give the fort.
 Loe! heer how soen the strong becoms full weak,
 And out of shraep fly cocks, and so crie creak.

THE PRAYES
 of our Souldiors.

WOULD God my pen might be your tromp of faem
 To sownd the praies that you desarved thear!
 O marshall men! that seeks but noble naem,
 Ye oght of right be honord evry whear.
 To you I speak, on whom the burthen lies
 Of warre, and doth by sword and sarvice ries,
 Who spaers no charg nor pain in princis right,
 When staet must stand by stowt and manly fight.

Your harts aer futch, you haet at hoem to bied,
 Whan any bruet or voyce of warrs is hard.

A shaemd in fstreet on foet cloth heer to ried,
Whan forward minds in feeled] shuld be prefard,
And skorning pomp and piviſhe pleaſurs vain
For true renowne, ye troedg and toyill a main
Whear danger dwels and heapps of hazards aer,
And hardnes great you find with hongrie faer.

You ward the day, and watch the winters night,
In frost, in cold, in ſon and heat alſo ;
You aer ſo bent that labor ſeemeth light,
And in the ſteed of joy you welcom woe.
For wealth you taek futch want as doth be fall,
Not ſhunning greef, but taſting ſorrows all :
Moer glad to die than live with blaem or blot,
Moeſt redy ſtill whear leaſt is to be got.

And leaſt exſteemed of all the men that lives,
(Lik hackney hors caſt of when torn is farvd)
Yet aer you thoes that greateſt honor gives
(If world may judg what ſoldiars have dezarvd)
Unto your prince ; for you aer paell and park
To keep the deer, and lanterns in the dark,
To ſhoe them light that ells at plain noon daye
Might ſtomble down, or ſleely ſhrink a waye.

Who bieds the bront, or who bears of[f] the bloes,
But you a loen ? yea, who doth ſho his face
In time of need a mong our forrain foes,
Or boldly faith, let me ſuplye your place ?
Toeſhe ! thats a taell was never hard nor ſeen,
That any one, to ſerve a king or queen,

Did strive with you, or ofred half so much
For faem as they who now theas verfys tutch.

Whearfore step out, and bear a brantch of bayes,
In sien of world the victors fuer you aer ;
For this I knoe, in right respect of praies
And worthy lawd, may noen with you compaer :
You may be calde the awfull marshall band,
The jewels gaye and garlands of the land,
The budds of faem and blofoms of renowne,
The contreys hoep and beawty of the crown.

Note.

Now must you mark, I mean not hierlings heer,
Nor fommer birds and fwallows for the time,
That wagis taeks and farvs but oens a yeer,
And sprowts a whiell as flowrs do in the prime ;
But thoes whoes minds and noble manners shoes
In peace and warr, loe ! thear a foldior goes
Of lief moeft cleer, of deed and word full just,
In triall still a man of speshall trust.

FINIS.

THE WHOLE ORDER

how oure Sovereigne Ladye Queene Elizabeth was
 receyved into the Citie of Bristow ; and the
 speaches spoken before her prefens at
 her entry, with the residue of versis
 and matter that might not be
 spoken (for distance of the
 place) but sent in a boek
 over the waetter.

*At the hie Crosse in a disguised manner stoed Faem,
 very orderly set forth, and spoke as followeth, by
 an excellent boy.*

NE fleet of foet, nor swift of wing,
 nor skarce the thought in brest,
 Nor yet the arrowe out of boe,
 nor wynde that feld doth rest,
 Compaers with me, quick worlds report,
 that som calls *Flying Faem* :
 A bruet of prayes, a blast of pomp,
 a blazer of good naem ;
 The only lawd that kyngs do seek,
 a joy to eatch estaet ;
 A welcom freend that all men loves,
 and noen a live doth haet,
 Saluets the Queen of raer renowne,
 whose goodly gifts devien

Throw earth and ayre with glory great
shall passe this tromp of mien.
And knowyng of thy commyng heer,
my duetty bad me goe
Before unto this present place,
the nues therof to shoe.
No foenner was pronownst the name,
but baebis in street gan leap;
The youth, the age, the ritch, the poer,
came runnyng all on heap;
And clappyng hands, cried maynly out,
O bleffed be the owre!
Our queen is comming to the town,
with princely trayn and powre.
Than collors cast they oer the wawls,
and deckt old howfis gaye;
Out flue the bags a bout afayrs,
that long a hording laye.
A fid they fet thear townishe trafhe,
and works of gredy gayen,
And tornd thear toils to sports and mirth,
and warlike pastimes playn:
As shalbe seen to morn in feeld,
if that your highnes pleas,
Whear duetie haeth deviesd by art
a shoe on land and seas,
To utter matter yet unknown,
that shall explyned be
By futch dom fights and shoes of war,
as thear your grace shall se.
Thus subjects means to honor prince,
whoes fight they have enjoyd,

Moest glad hit is thear hap to have
thear farvice fo employd.

*Than FAEM stang up a great garland, to the re-
joyfying of the beholders.*

*At the next gaet, and neer her highnes lodgynge,
stoed iii other boyes, called Salutacion, Gratula-
cion, and Obedient Goodwill; and ii of these
boyes spake as follows, and all they three drue
theyr swords whan it was named, the hoel staet
is reddie to defend (agaynst all diffencions) a
pesable prynce.*

Salutacion, the first boy.

ALL hayll, O plant of grace!
and speshall sprout of faem;
Most welcom to this western coest,
O perll and princely daem!
As loe! a custom is,
whear humble subiects dwels,
When prince aprocheth neer their vew,
for joy to ryng their bells:
So all that beareth lief
in *Bristow* now this day,
Salutes the Queen from depth of breast,
with welcom every way.
And wee, poer filly boyes,
that cam from fkoell of laet,
Rejoyce and clap our hands withall,
as members of thy staet.

Our dueties heer to fhoe,
and further moer, in deed,
Thear is a cause whearfore we fay,
thy helpyng hand we need.
Heer is, O mightie Queen !
in way of myrth and sport,
A matter movd tween peace and warre,
and therfore buylt a fort.
Diffenfion breeds the brawll,
and that is pomp and pried :
The fort on law and order ftands,
and ftill in peace would bied.
The warrs is wicked world,
as by his fruet is feen ;
The fortres representith peace,
and takes thy part, O Queen !
It feems the Gods have fent,
in this great quarell now,
A noble judge, that fhall with fpeed
decied the matter throw.

Gratulation, the fecond boy.

Yea, fuer this is a fien
that all the gods above
Taks part with us, and freely heer
doth men and childern love ;
In futch a sharp conflyct
to fend fo fuer a ftaye,
That shall furface *Bellonas* brags,
and end our fearfull fray.

A fottell fnaek of laet,
 with fopple fugged words,
Haeth fleely crept in brestes of men,
 and drawn out naked fwords ;
And with his wrangling taells
 haeth stoerd up strife ynoughe,
And drawn the marchant from his traed,
 and plowman from the ploughe :
Difenshon is his naem
 that all this mischeef breeds,
Who still with droffe and roemish dregs
 blinde peoples humour feeds,
And maks them mortall sick,
 and fway fomtims a fied,
With wicked warrs and wilfull brawls,
 that should with peace abied.
But yet, O peerles Prince !
 a true and loyall flock
Agaynst the prowd presomtuious minds
 are bent to stand the shock ;
And fwears by facred Gods,
 not oen within this foyll,
But reddy aer with losse of lief
 to give thy foes a foyll.
For proef, the feble youth,
 and baebz of tender aeg,
Daer draw their fwords in this attempt
 to corb diforders raeg.
Sens Englands hoep is com
 to payse these things in brest,
We daer not stay her longer heer,
 whose travell craveth rest.

Obedient Good Will, *the thyrd boy, who could not speak,
time was so far spent.*

Yet if the prince wold stay, or if men might make choice
Of oen no bigger than my self to speak in citties voice,
I would declaer, in deed what deep desier they have
To spend their goods, their lands and livs, her staet in
peace to fave;
But fens the time is short, and prince to lodging goes,
I say, God bles our Queen that givs the whit and fayr
red roes!

*After these speeches wear ended, iii hondreth soldiours, well
appoynted, wayted on her highnes to her lodgyng; and thear
she beyng settled, they shot of thear peeces in passyng good
order: at which warnyng the great artillery went of, a
hundred and xxx cast peecis; and so the watche charged, and
a hundreth shot apoynted for her gard, her highnes rested
that night, whear she lay all the season in Sir Fohn Yongs
house.*

*A Fort was made beyond the water in a ground fit for that
purpose, and to the saem as a frind (called Feble Pollecie)
joyned a littell bastillion, builded on a hil, which was not
strong by reason of the weak mayntenance belonging ther
unto: to the which piel the Soldiours of the main fort did
repayre: now must be understoed that dissension, passyng
betwen wars and peace, (warrs beyng placed in fight) had
sertayn speeches as follows; which speeches could not be sayd
in the heeryng of the Prince, wherfore they wear put into a
boek, and presented as heer after you shall kno.*

*Diffencion to the Citie, to move them to arms, hath his
speeches as these things wear don in action.*

*The Sondag next the Queen went to the Colledge, to heer a
sarmond, whear thear was a speetch to be sayd and an
imme to be songe: the speeche was left out by an occasion
unlooked for, but the imme was songe by a very fien boye.*

The Speech at the Colledge.

YOU subjects, that desierd to fe
 this gladfom preshos jeam,
Behold, lo! heer the only joye,
 and juwell of the ream :
A prince, in deed, of princely minde,
 that princis loves and fears ;
Whose passyng hed, yea, all the staets
 of Christen princis bears ;
And throughly fees, and loeks into,
 as though a man might fay,
Heer is the touchstoen for the gold,
 the piller, prop, and stay
Of evry region, far or neer,
 that to us neyghbors aer.
How mutch is this poer Colledg bound,
 in naked buildyngs baer,
For to receyve so bright a star
 as clouds can skarce contain ;
Who for to fe so small a fell
 hath taken so great payn.

The pieps and organs of our harts,
 shall yeld thee thank therfore,
 By found of pfalm, and solemp immes ;
 yea, could poer preefts do moer,
 The musicke that thy chapel maks
 should be so sweet and shrill,
 Might lull a sleep the Musis all,
 and shaek *Pernafoes* hill.

The Songe.

O HAPPY ower of blis !
 O colledg, thou dost fe,
 The shado gon, the substance com ;
 nay, fun doth shien on thee.
 Away, you bosum snaeks,
 that fowes diffenshon heer !
 Go, make your neasfts whear serpents breed ;
 this foyll and coeft is clear.
 Enchant no man with charms ;
 ye shall receyve check maet,
 If that you play with paltring pawns,
 before so great a staet.
 She hateth *Hidras* heds,
 and lovs the harmles mind ;
 A foe to vice, a frend to grace,
 and bent therto by kind :
 Which grace, and grafhos God,
 now gied her whear she goes,
 With treble grace, throw troblous time,
 to tread on all her foes.

*A skafold the next day was set up ful over agaynst the Fort,
and the Prince beynge placed, the speeches shold have bin
spoken for the better understanding of the devised triumphe :
so you must heer the speeches, or els shal you be ignorant of
the hoel matter.*

*Diffension to Peace (which was the mayn Fort)
speaketh in a furie these words
that follow.*

O PEOPLE vayn ! that spends in peace your dayes,
To prowle about for pens and pivish pealf,
And maks no count of faem and poblik prayes :
So eatch man lives, like prince, within him self,
And so posses the pleafuers on this mold ;
The juwels brave, the gay and glittryng gold,
You caer not what great glory elders won,
Nor who at first the worthy warres begon.

You sleep and snort in sweet perfumed sheets,
And hug your heds in harber warm and gay,
Whearby, in deed, ye have futch heavy spreets,
You can not se the goodly funny day :
No, though the clouds, the son, the moen, and al,
Wear reddy now apon your heds to fall,
You wold not move, nor seek your felves to save,
On droffe and dong futch deep defiers you have.

You heer not how the enmies at your noes
Aer up in aerms, and cawls your cowards still ;
You caer not mutch abroed how matters goes,

Whan that at hoem ye want no wealth nor will.
 Clap corrage on, and cast long gowns asied,
 Pluk up your harts, and fling down pomp and pried ;
 Make idell hands and heds, in hoels that lurk,
 For worthy lawd com forth, and learn to work.

A corflet fien is worth ten fkarlet goowns ;
 A blast of faem formounts all things you wear :
 Call lusty ladds to spend your spared crowns ;
 The warrs aproetch, tis time the boyes wear thear.
 If you a bied at hoem till cannons roer,
 The plaester coms to laet to falve the foer :
 Break downe the banks, that holds the water in ;
 Firft strik thy foe, and fo the brawll begin.

Put fyer to ftrawe, and make the fernayes hot,
 And bid them crie that borns thear fingers firft ;
 Yea, cast on wod to boyll the browes pot,
 And let them starve that wants to coell thear thirst.
 When world is wield, and all is fet a gog,
 A mans a man, and than a doggs a dogg.
 Advise you now, my dwelling is not heer ;
 I must pack hens a nother stern to steer.

*Now Diffenfion went to the warrs, which was fet out in
 open vew, (with all orders of marshall manner,)
 and spake as follows.*

GIVE ear, good maets, and mark full well
 the tidings that I bring,
 For I wilbe a larum bell,
 that in your earres shall ring

A pestlens peall of rumor strang,
that flies throw many a land,
The plain report whearof remains
in me Diffenshons hand :
If I keep cloes that I do knoe,
and stoer no clapper now,
The hargaboz, the bill, and boe,
will seartch your corraeg throw.
Trust this for troeth, that peace is bent
to trus up foldiors all :
Wealth wil no warrs, peace is so prowde,
the people fears no fall.
They bragg and boest thear treasuer can
torn eatch thing how they lift ;
For evry staet is wone with wealth,
as hawk stowps don to fift.
A mas of gold will porchafe peace,
and mak wield wantons taem,
If warrs wear wod, and waxed mad,
and hot as fiery flaem.
Peace ruells the earth, and wrings thear thombs
that raging revell maks :
Yea, play what gaem ye lift, they saye,
that peace doth fwep the staeks.
Peace is the prince that governs all,
and faith, a fig for war :
Yea, peace will put you all in pownde,
and mak you stand at bar.
Peace calls you roges, and swashing Dicks,
that stand apon your braves,

A fwarm of wasps, a flock of wolvs,
 a neast of theevs and knaves,
 That livs by spoyll and morthers viell,
 and triumphs still in bloed ;
 And have futch hot and greedy minds,
 you thirst for neibors goed.
 The trompets lowd that slaughter fownds,
 and drums with rombling noyes,
 Was never maed for men of peace,
 but rather fit for boyes.
 They saye, whoes childhoed likes fond bruets,
 and lovs futch trifling toyes ?
 Will you, that kingdoms conquerd have,
 be now subdued by peace ?
 Shall sevill fwains to loethsom gaiell
 lead men lik doggs in leace ?
 Shall pivysh peace and peple weak
 oer com the fodiour stout ?
 Shall loytrarrs lewd lik rebells rail,
 and manhoed wax a lowt ?
 Ah, fie for shame ! set hand on sword :
 in your behalf I bloeshe.
 Bid trompet fownd ; advance the pick,
 and give prowde peace a poesh.

*On thoes words was Warres in futch a stoer, that you might
 se the feeld all over spred with soldiours ; and so they martched
 down a hill, and maed a goodly shoe full against the littell
 fort (cald Feble Pollecie), and repolsing in al the soldiours
 of the same, wan it with great fury ; and so rased it and
 overthruw hit down to the earth.*

The mayn fort, in the meean whiel, did send futch suckor as they might; but prevaylyng not, they wear in like sort driven back, and their fort beseged, and mutch adoe about the saem, which drove out that day: and than by tortchlight the Prince from her skaffold, went to her lodgyng; and in the mean season som fier works wear seen, and so the watch was charged.

The second day was thear maed a nue aproetch to the mayn fort: for a better order of warre, and to the ayde of the fort, cam divers gentilmen of good callynge from the Court, which maed the shoe very gallant, and set out the matter mutch.

Now sarved the tied, and up the water from Kyngroed cam three brave galleys, chasng a ship that cam with vittayls to the fort: the fort seyng that their exstremitie within was great, sent a gentilman to the Prince for aid, who brought her a boek coverd with green velvet, which uttred the hoell substance of this device: the gentilman had a spech of his own mak yng, as follows, after he had swam over the water in som danger, cloes and all: he spaek his part to the Prince.

M. John Robarts of the Temple.

ESKAEPT from waltryng waues,
from sword and fier, and enmies fleight,
From storms and sturdy flaws,
from roeryng shot and fearfull fight,
I com to quiet land;
whear noble prince doth paffims vew,

And bryng a boek in hand,
of all the shoes and matter trew,
That must by practies pas
before your highnes as it fauls.
And fuerly sent I was,
by those that keeps your warlike wauls.
To crave your curteys ayd
in their defence that peace defiers;
Whoes staet is maed afrayd,
by fals Diffenhons kindled fiers.
As your poer people have,
throw peace posselt great gayn and good,
So still futch peace they crave,
as may avoyd the losse of blood.
As heer I cam a mayn,
so have I promesd, if I may,
For to retorn agayn
throw falt fea foem the faem felf way.

So he departed; and all this while the businesse was greate aboute the fort, (whiche hazarded the gentilmans lief,) and in a wonders bravery the broyl continued, with a shoe of fight on land and sea, till the very night approtched, at which time the Prince partted, and stoed marvelously well contented with that she had seen.

Now must you conceyve that Warres (with blodsheds, mizeries, and other horly borlees), waxt a weery, and that neither the fort, nor the wickednes of the world (which Warres represented) was desirous of further trobuls; but rather glad to have the matter taken up in any resonable condicions: for

the which purpose was devised, that Perswasion should go and tell his taell, and unfold what follies and conflicts rises on civill broylls, and what quietnesse coms by a mutual love and agrement. This Perswasion had a speech, as hereafter follows.

PERSWASION TO THE CITIE, *called* the*
MAIN FORT.

NO greef so great, nor foer so mutch,
but finds at length som rest :
As warrs begins by wrath of God,
so peace is counted blest.
Yet warrs is fuer a needfull thyng,
for mans offence a scorge ;
A falve to heale the finfull foule,
and for the staet a porge,
That skowrs the body of the realm,
and kyngdoms all throw out,
And leaves unfeartcht no member, fuer,
that walks this world about.
Wear not the woe that wars doth bring,
sweet peace should seem full fower :
The netels sharp, and wiked weeds,
sets forthe a pleasant flower.
By sicknes pangs we judg what health
and quiet rest is worth,
And out of payn is pleasuer found,
as gold from dros coms forth.
The harms, the haps, and cruell claps,
that warrs and cannon bryngs,

Maks princis seek the fear of God,
and subjects kno thear kings.
Thogh peace, in deed, despifeth warrs,
as plainnesss falshed haets,
Yet warlik people aer embraest,
and liekt of all estaets.
The knief that cuts the finger soer
in sheath about is born ;
The sword that takes away the life
makes peace whear it is worn.
The axe that heaweth down the tree
is needfull for mans lief.
Thus prove I, as mans help or harms
remains in sword and knif,
So warrs, whear they aer used well,
keeps world in fear and awe,
And shoes moer terror by his raeg,
than all your ruells of lawe.
Sens *Cayn* flue *Abell* warrs haeth bin
tween bretheren, as we reed ;
And foldiors hath bin wagid well,
as world of warrs stoed need.
Than snarr not for the faem they snatch,
nor brall to her thear bruet ;
When broyls have fowne ill feedes of caer,
peace reapes from warres good fruet,
And learns a lesson worthy gold,
which peace holds deer of price,
And maks therof a mirrour bright,
to vew and sift out vice.
The battayll ends whear conquest coms,
and when great charge is spent,

Note.

For peace the post with pakket goes,
 embaftars els aer fent,
To knit the knot and make a leag.
 thus all the brawls that bee,
Do bend to peace and wifdoms boe,
 how ear foels bolts do flee.
Whearfore agree with warres in haeft ;
 you fe what quarels aer,
And how that warres bryngs wo and waest,
 and leaves a kyngdom baer ;
The people spoyld, the housis bornt,
 the freends and neighbour flayn,
The giltles plaegd, and eatch man wrongd,
 whear rage and war doth rayn.

The Cities Answer to Perswasion.

DISSENTION first, that cald to mind
 our old foerfathers faem,
(And ript out seams of patched prayes,
 fkarce worth the noet or naem)
Brought peace and war in this uproer :
 our ruels futch brawls denies ;
Our traed doth stand on fivill lief,
 and thear our glory lies ;
And not on strief, the ruen of staets,
 a storm that all destryes,
A heavy bondage to eatch hart,
 that fredoms fruet enjoyes.
Our orders maks the roister meek,
 and plucks the prowde on knees ;

The ftif and ftobborne kno the yoeck,
and roets up rotten trees.
That may infect a fruetfull feeld :
what can be fweet or fownd,
But in that foyl, whear for offence,
is due correction fownd ?
Wee make the fivill lawes to shien,
and by example mield
Reform the rued, rebuek the bold,
and tame the contrey wyeld.
We venter goods and livs, ye knoe,
and travill feas and land,
To bring by trafick heaps of wealth,
and treafuer to your hand.
We aer a ftay and ftouer howfe boeth,
to kingdoms farr and near,
A cawfe of plentie throw foerfyght,
whan things wax scarce and deer :
And thoghe our joy be moeft in peace,
and peace we do maintain,
Whear on to prince and realm throw out,
doth ries great welth and gain,
Yet have we foldyars, as you fee,
that ftouers but whan we pleas,
And farvs our torns in howshold things,
and fit in shop at eas.
And yet daer blaed hit with the beft,
when cawfe of contrey coms ;
And cals out, courage to the fight !
by found of warlike droms.
We marchants keep a mean unmixt
with any jarring part,

And bryng boeth treble and the baefs
in order still by art.
A fouldiour shalbe liked well,
if his dezarts be futch :
A noble mind for noble aëts,
shall fuer be honord mutch.
But if men glory all in warres,
and peace disdayns in deed,
We skorn with any firoep sweet,
their humour sowre to feed.
And blest be God ! we have a prince,
by whom our peace is kept,
And under whom this citie long
and land hath fasly slept.
From whom liekwyys a thousand gifts
of grace enjoy we do,
And feell from God, in this her raygne,
ten thousand bleffyngs to.
Behold but how all secrets sien,
of falsshed coms to light
In these her dayes, and God taks part,
with her in troeth and right.
And mark how mad Diffenshon thrives,
that would fet warres abroetch ;
Who sets to faell poer peoples lives,
and gets but viell reproetch,
And endles shaem for all their sleights.
O, England ! joy with us,
And kis the steps whear she doth tread,
that keeps her countrey thus
In peace, and rest, and perfait stay :
whearfore the God of peace

In peace by peace our peace prefarve,
and her long lief encrease !

This was to be don, and put in exercies, befoer the Queen cam to the knittyng up of the matter ; but Perswasion beyng difmift, the battry was planted befoer the FORT, and they within so straitly enclosed, that they must needs abied the mercy of the sword and cannon.

At which instant, in the after noon that present day, the Prince was in her skaffold to beholde the suckesse of these offers of warre ; and so went the battry of, and the assault was geven in as mutch order as might be. The enemye was three times repolsed, and beholdyng nue suckors commyng from the Courte, to the forts great comfort, the enemye agreed on a parley ; whearin was reherfyd that the cortain was beaten down, and the fort maed sawtable, and yet the enemye, to save the lives of good citizens and soldiors thearof, would give them leave to depart with bag and багаег, as order of wars required. To the which the Fort maed answer, that the corttayns nor bulwarks was not their defence, but the corrage of good peple, and the force of a mighty Prince, (who saet and beheld all these doyngs,) was the thyng they trusted to : on which answer the enemye retired, and so condicions of peace wear drawn and agreed of ; at which peace boeth the sides shot of thear artillery, in sien of a triumphe, and so crynge, God save the Queen ! these triumphes and warlik pastimes finished. The Prince likyng the handlyng of these causes verie well, sent ii hondreth crownes to make the souldiors a banket. Now heer is to be considered that the Prince went into the gallees, and so down to Kyngroed, aer these things wear brought to an end.

*At her highnes departuer a gentelman, in the confiens of the
towns liberties, spaek this speech as follows.*

The dolfull a due.

OWR joy is joynd with grevous groens,
our triumphe tornd to tears ;
The brantch whoes blofoms gladnes broght,
a bitter berry bears.
In howfe and street, whear mirth was hard,
is moen and moorning noies ;
The fommer day is dimd with clowds,
eclypsed aer our joyes.
The loedstar leavs our wifhed cowrs,
and climes the heavens hie ;
Our fofrant will no longer lord
in walls of Bristow lye.
No marvell, fins our barrain foyl,
and ground of groes devyce,
Haeth yelded no thing that might pleas,
a prince of fo great price.
Our dueties aer not half dischargd,
no thoghe we kift the grownd,
And prostraet fall full flat on face,
whear her foet fteps aer fownd.
The *Persians* daer not cast up eies,
nor loek upon thear king :
Shall Christians, then, presuem to preace
on futch a sacred thyng,
And sho no part of duties bownds ?
O God, forbid ! I say,

But that the Lords anointed should
 be honord evry way.
 Long loekt this citie for a prince;
 long fens, and many a yeer,
 A king or queen beheld this town :
 fhort time she taryes heer.
 Good fortuen folow thee, O queen !
 God gied thy doings all ;
 A world of threfold blessed happ
 apon thy kingdom fall !
 As loeth to taek our heavy leave,
 as leave our livs in deed,
 A due, deer lady of this land ;
 the living Lord thee speed !

*Som of these speeches could not be spoken by means of
 a Scholemaister, who envied that any stranger should
 set forth these shoes.*

FINIS.

THE ROCKE OF REGARD,

diuided into foure parts.

The first, the Castle of Delight :

Wherin is reported, the wretched end
of wanton and diffolute liuing.

The second, the Garden of Vnthriftnesse :

Wherein are many sweete flowers, (or rather
fancies) of honest loue.

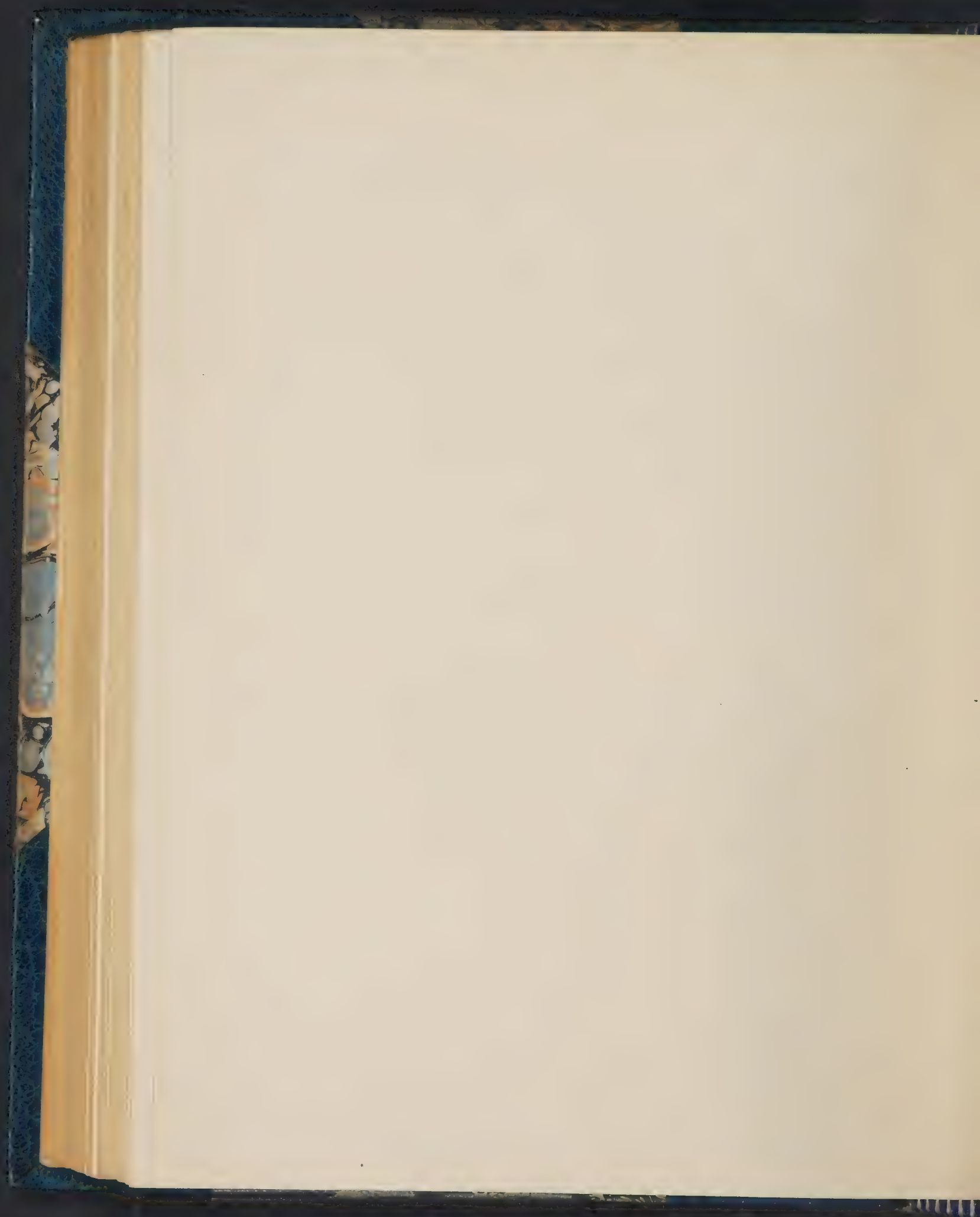
The thirde, the Arbour of Vertue :

Wherein flaunder is highly punished, and ver-
tuous Ladies and Gentlewomen
worthily commended.

The fourth, the Ortchard of Repentance :

Wherein are discourfed the miferies that followe
dicing, the mischiefes of quarreling, the fall of
prodigalitie ; and the fouden ouerthrowe of
foure notable coufners ; with diuers other
morall, natural & tragical discourfes :
documents and admonitions : be-
ing all the invention, collec-
tion and translation of
George Whetstone,
Gent.

Formæ nulla fides.



*To all the young Gentlemen of England, to whose
perusing this Booke shall happen, George
Whetstons wisheth both health
and good hap.*

WORTHY gentlemen, I have presented unto your friendly
acceptaunce, a worke so worthlesse, (in respect of the
homely handling thereof) as will (I feare) neither content
you in reading, nor any wayes commend my paines in writ-
ing: and yet I am right wel assured (curious contentment set
apart) it importeth necessarie matter of direction for unstayed
youth, who having the raines at libertie, are so hote in ex-
pence, as that they be many times surfited with incumber-
ances, yea, tyred out right with prodigalitie, before they be
brought into any perfect order of spending. For whose be-
halfe and forewarning, I have collected together a number of
my unlearned devises (invented, for the most, of experience)
and more boldly then well advised, have guarded them, with
the title of the *Rocke of Regarde*: not for that it containeth
only needefull matter, but for that you, having noted the dis-
commodities of the unnecessarie, might reade the necessarie

considerations with more regard. And for that it behooveth the maister of every feast to provide divers dishes, to please the divers appetites of his divers guesstes, the like consideration now mooveth me; who, having invited a number to peruse my unpolished labours, as neare as I can to use such decorum in my doings, as every desire may be satisfied. And sure I hold it necessarie, that matters of advise (to worke attention) be sometimes mingled with delight: and further, for that I know the most part of youth (to whome I chieftly dedicate the fruite of my travell) are so carelesse of their commoditie, as they set light of sound advise, unlesse such persuasions be sauced (in some respect) with their owne desires; so that to win them to the reading of that which is profitable, I have likewise presented them with matter of honest pleasure. And yet, least they lighting on some discourse of worth, shoulde by and by be led away with the sight of some wanton devise, I have published my travell under these foure following titles.

The first is, the Castle of Delight. Wherein (to joyne commoditie, with the readers pleasure) are many morall and needefull considerations. For who so noteth there the issue of the Countesse of Zelants hate, may happely feare to execute a strumpets bloudie revenge. In Cressids Complaint, the subtilties of a courtesan discovered may forwarne youth from

the companie of inticing dames. The adventures of Rinaldo (which may verie well be termed a laberynth of love) discourseth the inconveniencies of jealousie: and by the overthrowe of Frizaldo, is showane the reward of lawlesse lust and trecherie.

Some there be that, having eyed my former unthriftinesse, doe gape (percase) to viewe in this booke, a number of vaine, wanton, and worthlesse sonets, in some respectes I have satisfied their expectation, moved to suffer the imprinting of them, not of vaine glorie, but of two good considerations: the one to make the rest of the booke more profitable, and (perhaps) lesse regarded, the better saileable: the other, and chieftest, in plucking off the visard of self conceit, under which I somtimes proudly masked with vaine desires. Other yong gentlemen may reforme their wanton lives in seing the fond and fruitles successe of my fantasticall imagination, which be no other then poems of honest love; and yet for that the exercise we use in reading loving discourses sildome (in my conceit) acquiteth our paines, with any thing beneficiall unto the common weale, or verie profitable to our selves, I thought the Garden of Unthriftinesse, the meetest title I could give them.

The third is the Arbour of Vertue, the which I chiefly published for the delight of vertuous ladies and gentlewomen:

and yet (my lustie gent.) it conteineth matter very needfull for you to note; as in making choice of a wife, rather indowed with vertue then mony, as Syr Ulrico did: and in reading the complaint of Alberto and Udislas, you may see how foule a fault it is rashly to judge ill of womens behaviours.

The fourth is the Orcthard of Repentance, the which, for the most part, I planted with experience: the fruits therin growing (think I) be hoalsome, although to curious appetites not greatly toothsome. But what for that? the smarting wound is cured with fretting plasters. Even so, abuse is to be reformed with sharpe reprehension; then sure it were not decorum, in inveying against a cousener, cheter, dicer, quareler, &c. who (for the most part) live without good order, to use any m'ilde and plausible kinde of writing. The inconveniences that rise of these professions are the fruites of forewarning, that my Orchard (gallant gentlemen) affordeth: and yet to afforde you a good peniworth it marreth the markets of a great many. The cousnor will chafe to see his practises published: the cheter will fume to see his crosbiting and cunning shiftes decyphered: the dicer will sweare to heare his cogging and foysting advauntages discovered: the quareler will stampe to heare his braules and brables bayted at: the

merchaunt will storme to see his new kinde of usuries revealed : the lawyer wilbe in a wonderfull heate to heare his double dealings, his dilatorie delayes, and unconscionable advantages disclosed. Al these mens displeasures have I hazarded, in opening (for your behoves) their mischievous subtilties ; and trust mee, not one of these sortes of men, but his teeth watereth with the desire of your lyvinges ; yea, hee daily studieth to bring you in lash : so that it behoveth you to looke warily into your estates, else you shall light into the snarts of some of their daungers.

Now, worthy gentlemen, have you heard my honest intent as touching the imprinting of this my booke ; mine was the paine in framing the plots, wherein these fruits and flowers grow, yours is the pleasure and profite of both : marry, if you misuse my welmeaning so farre, that you (where sea roume serveth you to avoyde the sandes of wanton love) wil wilfully run upon the rockes of unlawful lust, the folly is yours, and no fault in me : or if you (wher you may gather frendly fruits of admonition, that wil cure your woundes of prodigalitie, and preserve you from the infection of cousening cut-throts) will continually be smelling unto unthriftie flowers, you not onely vainly spend your time, but worke a discredite unto my painfull labours. Wherefore I earnestly require

*you, that you use the first increase of my barren braine so
rightly, as I may be encouraged hereafter to beate my head
about some matter of more worth, rather then, by the misuse
of them, to be discouraged from attempting any honest
labour. And thus, wishing good successe in your
vertuous enterprises, I commit you to the plea-
sure of the hiest. From my lodging in
Holborne, the 15 of
October 1576.*

A general advertisement

unto the Reader.

GENTLE reader, to the ende mine intent may the better appeare, as touching the publishing of this booke, I thought good to advertise thee that, as there are many confiderations in it, morall, naturall, and needefull, likewise are there some verses escaped, that favour more of wantonnes then wisedome: so that some finding their corrupt consciences gauled with the discoverie of their monstrous deceites, for that they have no colour to reprehend that in deede mislyketh them, they, playing on this poore advauntage, hope to bring the rest of the worke in hatred: to these barking brablers, I neither answere hote nor cold. But least that thou (good reader) slip into some misconceite, won either by such findefaultes misliking, or by thy owne misconstruing of my workes, I give thee to witt that there is nothing written so clearkely (divine causes excepted) but there may be some follie wrested out of the same, and nothing againe so fonde, but it conteyneth matter of moralitie. Uppon which warrant, poets of worthie memorie, as Virgil, Ovid, Horace, Mantuan, and others, by your leave, sometimes fauced their gravest discourses with wanton devifes.

And now to my purpose. Since that the wifest reports hardly escape without some matter of reprehension, and workes, of small worth in shew, comprehend some matter

worthie of note, thinke that the good and the badde in this booke is to forwarne youth, and to recreate the stayed : and thinke that my beginning with delight, running on in unthriftines, resting in vertue, and ending with repentaunce, is no other then a figure of the lustie yonkers adventures ; who beginneth to seeke preferment with delightful braverie, and being entred into the hie way of unthriftines, findeth his journey so pleasant that, ere he is a ware, he posteth his poore purse out of hart with prodigalitie : so that (unlesse he meane to tyre him to death) hee must rest both his purse and raunging fancies, with some vertuous and stayed determination of life ; and yet, when all is done, late repentaunce must recover his, and his purses surfet. Nowe, if he that here seeth a preservative to keepe him from the pestiferous sicknes, want ; or being newly infected, findeth a remedie for his grieve, both against his physicians minde, and the nature of his disease, wil take such a receite as perissheth him with povertie, what then ? should the physician or his medicins bee condemned ? No sure : hee shalbe indited of his owne disorder. Thus much (courteous reader) I thought good to laye open unto thee, both that thou mayst bee privie unto my intent, and that with benefite to thy selfe thou mayst reade my unlearned labours : and thus, wishing thee profite in al thy vertuous exercises, I betake thee to the good pleasure of
 God.

*Nicholas Bowyer in commendation.
of this Booke.*

To praise the thing, that no man can dispraise,
Though it seeme vaine, yet trueth doth guard the checke,
Least pyning spite, the best with hate to paize,
That skilleffe scoffes do breake well meaninges necke ;
For art attaynde in science skilfull schoole,
Stands free from foe, except it bee a foole.

And for this woorke which Whetstons witt hath wrought,
Though rash report of findfault foes deface it,
Yet will the wise commend it, as it ought ;
The prooffe is praise, when grudgers do disgrace it,
And in the ende that worke getts prick and prife,
Which frettes the foole, and doth content the wise.

That this is such, good reader, see and say :
Bee judge thy selfe, I cannot tell thee all ;
To speake to short, defame the fame I may,
And better rest then rise to catch a fall ;
Yet this I say, who so most faults shal finde,
In trying like will come an ace behinde.

*R. C. in praise of Whetstons and his
Rocke of Regard.*

Reader, reward this gallant gift with thankes,
Whose worth is much, although the price be small,

Biancaes life, and Cressids subtile pranks,
 Of wantons shoves the fortune and the fall :
 Frizaldoes foile, at point of all his hap,
 Of lawlesse lust foretells the after clap.

What are the joyes, and lovers daily wronges,
 Their sweete, their fowre, Rinaldo here doth shoue :
 The morall heede in all these thriftlesse songes
 Doth prove him blest, that least of love doth know ;
 But that that beares the pearle of praise away,
 This poet doth the fall of vice bewray.

Bare faste he fetts the maskes of peevish pride,
 Hee findes their faultes that fostereth fraude with pence,
 His searhing verse the couseners traynes hath spide,
 Which hyde their craft with cloake of plaine pretence,
 The end of bralles, the beggery folowing dice,
 Forewarneth youth from haunting either vice.

The vertuous praifde, the vicious here are blamde,
 Hee lives their fame that vertues fouldiours ware :
 For your behoofe this worthie worke was framde,
 Of more emprice then gold or jewels farre.
 Loe ! thus from toyes hath Whetston weand his Muse
 In thundring verse to threaten foule abuse.

*Humfrey Turner in commendation of Whetston
and his booke.*

Reader, for this his gift with thanks good Whetstone pay :
The worth runnes farre beyond the price, as seeing thou
wilt say ;

The matter in which worke at large here to report,
(Unable man) though faine I would, my skill a mile comes
short.

Where hee the substance shoves, I should a shadowe make
In prayse of him, yet needes my Muse some paines will
undertake.

And first I knowe, of zeale for yonkers heede hee made
This gallant booke, which fetts to sale the crafte in every
trade.

With moral meaninges fault, delight it yeldeth store,
The vertuous praisde, the vicious checkt, here is : and would
you more ?

If this may not suffice, your selves peruse the booke,
And you shall finde to please your minde (per case) more
than you looke.

*Abraham Fleming uppon G. Whetstons
worke.*

Who wisheth with pleasure refreshed to bee,
A castle of comfort and passing delight,
Erected of purpose (loe !) here hee may see,

And painted with colours of pure blacke and white :
 No bulworcke, no fortresse more strongly prepard,
 And therefore well named the *Rock of Regard*.

Who wisheth for vauntage to vewe and behold
 Unthriftines garden where weedes do abound,
 Hee hath leave to enter, and is not controld,
 T' examine the nature of that gracelesse ground :
 But so let him medle, with prudence prepard,
 That still hee remember the *Rock of Regard*.

The Arbour of Vertue most pleasaunt in sight,
 Who lyfteth, when leasure best serveth, may see ;
 His labour in looking will learning requite,
 For wisedome his guerdon is likely to bee :
 His well meaning merits shal reape a reward,
 If that he forget not the *Rock of Regard*.

Through th' Orchard of penance so passe and repasse,
 That solace and sorrowe partake not a chaunge,
 Take heede of the serpent that grovels in grasse ;
 Th' experience is common, the proverbe not straunge,
 In Whetstons wise warnings the same is declard,
 Whose name is renownd by his *Rock of Regard*.

In tenebris fulget.

John Wytton in commendation of this worke.

Though Whetston be no carving toole, yet vertue hath it
 such
 As will the durest metall sharpe, though they be dulled
 much ;
 And fure the author of this worke, whom wee do Whetston
 call,
 To prove his nature, hits his name, to edge blunt wittes
 withall.
 He moves, flyres up, hee whets, he sharpes, ech one doth hee
 invite,
 In vertuous wife for to approch his castell of delight.
 A garden there unto is joynde, to salace you withall,
 If wanton heate offend your hart, in vertues arbour stall :
 An Orchard full of morall fruites for you hee hath prepar'd,
 All this his learning leveld out, the Rock of good Regard ;
 And for to vewe this gallant foyle you freely leave may take ;
 Roame round about, take what you list, but fee no spoyle
 you make.
 The hearbs and fruits that therein are doth serve both
 ficke and found
 For to restore, or to suppress, as humours do abound.
 There shal you finde flowers and fruites continually abide,
 That makes or marres, that hurtes or salves, as they may
 be applide :
 There may the found collect and reape his health, his
 wealth, and rest,
 And if he please, so keepe him selfe preserved with the best.
 The youth with want newe furnished his apples helps anon :

If he detract his cure too long, the fault is then his owne.
 More in his Ortchard counfel growes, to make preserve
 withall
 Gainst had I wift, and noysome neede, th' undoer of us all.
 All this in worthy Whetston's workes with vauntage you
 may learne,
 With thanks, then reader, quite his paines who heapes of
 gold doth earne.

*The Argument for the Countesse of
 Celants complaint.*

Giachomo Scaperdon, a notable usurer, had a gallant damosell unto his daughter, called Bianca Maria, who, arriving to fixtene or seventene yeares of age, fuche was her fightly shape and beautie, together with the possibilitie of great wealth, that loe! she was a stall to toule divers suiters: in the end Vicount Hermes, fancying the mayde and loving her wealth, was an earnest suiter to marrie her. Bianca Maria (desirous of honour) consented to have him. Vicount Hermes, possesst of this faire ladie, sone found out her natural disposition to wantonneffe; yet narrowly eyeing her behaviour, during his life he preserved her credite. But oh! this good Vicount dyed, even in the prime of his wives wantonneffe, who then, crying libertie, set her felfe to sale with open shame. Divers suiters she had, among the which, the Count of Celant made suite of marriage: the title of a Countesse so pleased her, as she soone assented to be his wife: afterwarde she so cunningly handled the matter, as all the countrie spake of her lightnesse ere her husband mis-

doubted her loyaltie. But when she perceived his mistrust, she left him and fled to Pavy, where she interteined Ardifino Valperga, Earle of Masino, as her minion; but, wearie of his custome, she chose Roberto Sanceverino, Earle of Giazso, for her lover. Valperga, thus scorned, railed at hir inconstancie: Bianca Maria, by Valperga thus openly defamed, practiseth with G[i]azso to murther Valperga; which when Giazso neglecteth, with very hate she leaveth Giazso, and falles in love againe with Valperga, with whom she practiseth to murther Giazso, which Valperga discovered to Giazso, and they both in such sort painted out her lewdnesse, as for very shame she left Pavy, and fled to Mantua; where she interteined one Dom Pietro, a lustie yong capitaine, to whom she bewrayed the injuries of Valperga and Giazso. Dom Pietro by and by promised, in penance of their shamelesse reportes, to dispatch their lives, which in part he wilfully performed: for one day, taking Valperga at advantage, he suddenly slue him: the murther and the murtherer discovered, Dom Pietro was taken, and confessed the whole matter. He, in hope of amendment, was pardoned, and Bianca Maria, Countesse of Celant, was condemned to be beheaded, whome you may suppose, uppon the scaffold readie to be executed, to complaine as followeth.

The Castle of Delight

— o —

The difordered life of Bianca Maria, Countesse of
Celaunt, in forme of her complainte, supposed
at the houre of her beheading for pro-
curing the murder of *Ardifino Val-*
perga, Earle of Massino.

AMONG their falles, by wanton fate untwift,
Let my lewde hap remembred be I pray,
To falue whose harme too late coms had I wift;
Bloud cries for blud, he craves none other pay:
For conscience fake, behould then now I wray,
With trickling teares my deadly cheakes that warme,
The true report both of my hap and harme.

Good ladies, first, to you this tale I tell,
To you as chiefe this drirye plaint I preach:
Your hie estate, your vices cannot quell,
But as you live your fame or shame doth streach,
With vauntage sure (such notes doth honour reach)
Your praise is raifde as farre is blasd your blame:
Thus are your lives y payft with parcial fame.

Let mee be prooffe and warning for you both,
Whose filthie life so foule report hath spread,
That loe! (constrainde) I shewe the shame I loth.
My wanton toyes in thousand bookes are read;
My byrth, my blame, how lewde a life I lead,
My passing love, my peevish hate withall,
My murderous minde; in fine, my filthie fall.

First for my birth, I must confesse, was base,
But bagges I had this basenesse to supplie;
My forme was fine, I had a gallant face,
A sugred tongue, a passing pleasaunt eye;
Good gifts besides, to hoyse my happe on hie:
These lures in love the Vicount Hermes brought,
Who kept mee short to tame my wanton thought.

The Vicount
Hermes, her
first husband,
kept her
short.

But (ah!) to soone my lord to heaven did wend,
Who, maugre will, Bianca kept in fame.
The coupe thus broke wherein I long was pend,
I fet my selfe to faile with open shame;
Gonfago yet did like mee with my blame,
But loe! I stoopte unto the Celant Count:
Hee lovde mee well, I likt a loft to mount.

Bianca Maria
was her name.

Gonfago, a
lord about
Mantua, an
earnest futer.

Consent of friendes accorded with our wills,
And wee forsooth in haste must married bee;
But raifde a loft, I quight forgot what quills,
What feathers, first to honour made mee flee:
As priestes forget the fillie clearkes degree,
So I from cart a countesse framde by fate,
Throughe scorne abusde my honour and estate.

Shee married
the Count of
Celant, a lord
of Savoy.

Kitt will to
kinde.

No marveile why : for force the cur to drawe
The kestrill kyte, to cause the heron to quake,
The ravening wolfe of lambes to stand in awe,
The myllers mare a mannage good to make,
Or apes to daunce, while mules lie at the stake,
A botelesse toile, in fine you sure shall finde :
For counterfettes will still returne to kinde.

And thinke you those that weare dame Fortunes crowne,
Whose homely friends did hould the ploughe of late,
Can rightly rule the scepter of renowne ?
No, honour stoupes to nature, not to fate :
Yet Fortune heaves a thousand to estate,
As in good moode shee did of late by mee,
Who never knew the use of dignitie.

Pride.

As by abuse one prooffe shal well appeare.
First for my pride my betters did me scorne,
The poore did fawne, godwot, for very feare.
My luring life did move my lord to mourne,
Whose jelous fighes foreshewed he feard the horne :
Yet wisely hee, his shrewde mistrust to show,
Ufde secrete nippes my faultes to make mee know.

I saw, and smilde to see his true mistrust,
And yet in shewe I fight throwe follen will,
As who should say, to thinke thy spouse unjust
Thou doest her wronge ; she never ment no ill :
She hath beene true, and so shee wilbe still.
For all his witte thus found I out a wile
To quench suspect, forsooth, a little while.

But ravening currs their chaps can hardly hould
When carren lies before their hungry jawes :
The stragling kite with chickes will sure be bould
If once a wynges spies a flight of dawes.
Soe ramping girles regarde no modest lawes,
As prooffe appeares by this my filthie flight :
I left my lord, and stoale away by night.

Who hearing once of this my gadding moode,
My vitall thread untwiste, good care (quoth hee)
In fine, her hate wil sure sucke out my bloode ;
She loves me not, there is no third degree.
Thus ledde with feare, at large hee let mee flee ;
I, pinchte with neede, to praying forthwith fell,
And for my selfe I shifted prettie well.

To plant my wares in place of bravest vewe
In Pavie towne a stately house I tooke :
I deckte my selfe with weedes of lightest hewe,
To lure guesstes I sparde no wanton looke.
Valperga first was choakt with Cupids hooke :
Hee fight, hee sobd, hee curst his forrie chaunce,
Hee fuede, hee fearvd, he did attendaunce daunce.

Pavie, a
towne under
the governe-
ment of the
Duke of
Mantua.
Ardissino
Valperga,
Count of
Maffino, her
first mynion
at Pavie.

But squemish then Bianca Maria was ;
His secrete fighes with scorne she quited still.
A parle yet at length was brought to pas,
Where safely hee might shew his hidden will :
With fugred wordes he wraide his futes at fill ;
His life, his death, all in my power lay,
I was so kinde to loth this lords decay.

Note.

They fay, the mate is apt to mischiefe still,
Whose foule offence with countenaunce is held ;
So wantons, forst with their agreeing will,
When lust assaultes will after learne to yeald.
No fame nor shame can make them keepe the field :
To true a prooffe appeareth by mine end ;
Then sinne not, dames, in hope for to amend.

I shoue not this to shape mine owne excuse,
My life I lothe, to salve my foule amisse ;
But for your heed I blase this vile abuse :
Beware, beware, of Venus beastly blisse,
It feedes the fleshe and sterves the foule, I wisse ;
It honour stains, it is a shrine of shame,
A bitter sweete that breadeth nought but blame.

In mee too late these faultes I did forsee.
Valperga so my wanton humour fedde,
My fare was fine, I lackt no goulden glee,
The Art of Love for exercise I redde,
And thus my life in Venus court I ledde :
With wealth at will, I could but wish and have
The toy I lackt, I neede not twise to crave.

And think you, dames, these visards yeld such fights
As wanton girles may fighe to see their shame ?
No ; meekenes marres the maskes of fond delightes,
And fasting must their frolicke bodies tame :
To Scriptures read they must their leasure frame,
Then loath they will both lust and wanton love ;
Be sure else such ryggs my case shall prove.

But at my call why did Valperga stoupe?
Why did not hee foresee the fruites of lust?
Why did he come at every wanton whoope?
Why, why did hee Bianca Maria trust,
Which to her lord had shewen her selfe unjust?
A man hee was whom weakenes cannot scuse,
How could hee, then, let love him so abuse.

How could hee? (ah!) perforce I shew my shame,
As one whose tongue a truth will neatly tell.
I reast his life, why flay I then his fame?
No reason why, fave I can nothing well;
For through my lure hee (wonne) to folly fell,
If not so witcht: who list like case to prove;
Shal find fine heads are fraughted first with love.

Then, fith his joy all in Bianca lay,
What scuse hath shee with hate to pay his love?
Bee not abasht the truth in wordes to wray,
Which thou in act untimely late didst prove.
What fullen moode this peevish scorne did move?
And am I forst to shew the fault I shame?
Sith needes I must, good ladies, note the fame.

They say, who so with dropie is aprayde,
The more hee drinckes, the more hee doth desire.
The greedie churle is never well appayde,
Although he reape the gaine hee doth require:
So lust in rampes is such a raging fire,
That most it heates when most the fame is drencht,
A hellish flame that never can be quencht.

Idlenefs and
pride the
caufe of wan-
ton love.

This fire in mee was kindled firft with pride,
But rayfde to flame with eafe and wanton thought :
It raged fo, no reafon could mee guide.
My husbands fport fo fmall allayaunce wrought,
As him I left, for luftier laddes I fought ;
Valperga then a while fuppreft this fire,
But hee decayde, for chaunge I did defire.

Roberto
Sanfeverino,
Erle of Giaz-
zo, Valpergas
great friend,
was her fecond
lover.
The traynes
that intice_to
love.

Giazzo next was favord in my fight,
Who forft mee not, his friend hee loved foe :
Hee knew I was Valpergas fole delight,
Hee fcornde my winckes, my wanton love in fhowe;
My privie fighes, my wilie fignes of woe ;
But, fpaniel like, by ftripes to kindnes movde,
The more hee fcornd, the more this lord I lovde.

And when I fawe hee fhunde inticeing baites,
Immodeft rigg, I Ovids counfell ufde,
Where cleanly I did couler fhame with fleightes,
Through love conftainde, which reafon had abusde :
My penne did paint what bashfull tongue refusde,
Which fewe fuffisde ; hee knew love kept no lawe,
Hee was my joy, of him I ftoode in awe.

This proferd grace did ftowpe Giazzo ftraight ;
Hee lovde his friend, but more his owne delight :
The hooke of love hee fwallowed with the baite.
No marvaile why : Biancaes beautie bright,
Her brave arraye, and fhee a counteffe hight,
Would force a man himfelfe and all forgoe ;
And could hee chufe when love was offered foe ?

No, neede to runne the creeple fure will teach,
A pleasaunt pray, a thiefe inticeth soone,
As foxes hate the grapes they cannot reach,
And wilie faintes with showes are feldome wonne,
When as, assuerde, their squemishnes is donne.
Even such a faint Giazso proved in fine ;
He lovde no grapes before hee reacht the vine.

Note.

Wel, thus at length, I won my wished joy ;
He came, in whome my heart did wholly dwell ;
To make him sport Bianca was not coy,
She knew her game, and streight to daliaunce fell ;
Where as this lord behavde himfelfe so well,
That loe ! I loath Valpergas drowfy sport,
And so with scorne I stayde his oft refort.

Thus reft (good foule) of her hee heald so deare,
His woonted futes a fresh he put in ure,
Hee fight, hee served, he lookt with forrie cheare ;
But when no fute nor service could procure
My stragling love to stoupe unto his lure,
By neede inforst, his dotage then hee reft,
And so with losse my wanton pleasures left.

When mystes of lust were cleared from his eyes,
Disdaine forthwith transformed his love to hate :
Fye on my life, and lewdnes ! lowde hee cries ;
Hee heaves mee up to filthie Faustines state,
A Layis byrde, for Maffeline a mate,
A filth, a flurt, a bitch of Megraes kinde,
A rigg, a rampe, and all that came to minde.

Peevish hate
infueth pas-
sing love.

A womans
deadly hate.

But when I heard my blame hee blafed thus,
Impatient, I began to ftampe and ftare,
To waile, to weepe, to wring my handes I wous,
To freate, to fume, to teare my golden heare.
In fine, as madd as ever was March hare,
I vowde to reave Valperga of his life,
Which I performde (aye me !) through peevifh strife.

While fport was quicke I did Giazzo move
To flay this lord, in grace which whilome ftoode ;
But difpoffeft to winne his owne fweete love,
Uncivil wretch, accoyde through fullen moode,
Hee blafed mee forth as byrde of Layis broode.
Leave off (quoth hee), I loth thy heavie cheere,
Valpergas tongue shall buy this bable deare.

Giazzos frend-
fhip towards
Valperga.

With which fuffifde, I fell to kiffes ftraight,
And shewde my felfe more gamefome then of yore :
To tyce him on I laide this wanton baite,
But hee, which long Valperga held in ftore,
Within his heart my hatred did abhorre ;
Yet nay the leffe my love hee did fo like,
As ftill, hee faid, he ftayde for time to ftrike.

Note.

But when I found what fine delayes hee ufde,
All fweld with wrath, (quoth I) the proverbe faithe
Proferde fervice is ever more refufde,
And offered love is quited fyld with faith :
Without the hooke the baite no poyfon hath,
Yet haplie hee, for all his wiles, may prove
My peevifh hate oore wayes my paffing love.

And in disdaine the secrete gates I bard,
Where in and out Giazso earst did goe ;
I tould him plaine his market cleane was mard,
I ment my faultes unto my lord to shoue,
If which suffisde, I would no more do so ;
To faine with chaunge, I did Giazso pray,
With kindnes showne contented for to stay.

An honest
couler to
difemble a
lewd revenge.

Nigh tyred hee my greedie lust to glut,
Full wel appayde, for trueth my faynings tooke ;
Hee tooke no heede how often times is shut
In fugged baite a fowle and filthie hooke,
How hate is hidde full oft with friendly looke,
Ne how the lewde, when grace is not their stay,
Refuse no meane to worke their foes decay.

Note.

Even such a filth I (forst) confess I was :
I ufde this shoue to chase my foes mistrust,
Thereby to worke his fatall ende (alas !)
When leaft he thought I would have been unjust,
Such cankered hate my murderous heart did rust ;
Unto which ende I for Valperga fend,
With yll, for good, to quite his faithfull frend.

She practised
with Valper-
ga, whom late
she scorned,
to slay Giazso,
who should
have flaine
him.

I knew the force of new revived love,
How peevish hate more perfect mad[e] the same ;
I likewise knew newe friendship how to move
With pleasaunt lookes, y mixt with pretie blame :
I checkt him first for foyling of my fame ;
Perdona moy, ore showes againe with viewe,
Dear dame (quoth hee) I yeld ; your tale is true.

Even so (quoth I), and smiling usde these wordes :
 Confessed crimes doth open penaunce chuse.
 What plague you please (quoth hee) your thrall accordes,
 That hee or you shall execution use ?
 Such power (quoth I) I meane not to refuse,
 Yet hoping that those faultes you will amende,
 I pardon all, and take you for my frende.

A policie.

And when I sawe him eager of delight,
 A fighe I fetch, and did Giazzo name.
 Valperga said, Giazzo to his might
 Was sure his friend : (quoth I) I thinke in name,
 But (ah !) his deedes will never prove the same ;
 And though I loth to sowe seditious strife,
 Yet needes I must, for safegard of thy life.

In ffooth (sweete friend) thy daungerous state I rew.
 This trayterous mate, to move thine overthrowe
 By guile, God wot, with mee in frendship grew,
 Betwixt us friends he first did hatred sowe ;
 Hee forged faultes to keepe mee still thy foe,
 And yet my heart, for al that hee could say,
 Did love thee well, although my tongue said nay.

Which when hee smeld, puffed up with furie straight,
 He vowed thy death for robbing of his joy ;
 Which bloudie wordes did force mee to unfraight
 This bitter speach : *Avaunt, thou peevish boy !*
Thy filthy sight Bianca doth annoy.
 Beleeve mee, lord, this tale is very true :
 Beginne with him before hee do with you.

These forced wordes did rayse a foare mistrust,
Or haply else Giazso might a smoakte ;
But yet hee vowde to feede my filthie lust,
With bloudie blade his trayterous breath to choake,
And leave hee toke, hee said, to strike this stoake :
But loe ! hee went forthwith to Mantua,
Unto his friend these secretes to bewray.

Note.

Which treafon when Giazso understoode,
Who can avoyde (quoth hee) a strompets hate ?
And thundering out the stormes of furious moode,
With tearmes of scorne hee did Bianca rate.
Out filth ! (quoth hee) twixt friends which fowes debate :
And in despight a libel hee invents,
Which (lorde) to you Bianca here presents.

An Invective written by Roberto Sanseverino,
Earle of Giazso, against Bianca Maria,
Countesse of Celant.

Who ever sawe a thorne sweete grapes to yeeld,
Or fower flowes uppon a vine to growe ?
Who ever heard a coward first in feeld ?
The foreward wight soonste feard with fight of woe ?
Who ever knew, in time of any minde,
Good fall to bad, or kitt to flee from kinde ?

If prooffe ne pearces, who may Bianca blame,
 Whose father rofe to wealth by filthie fraude,
 Her mothers life y thrinde with endles fhame,
 Whose grandam was in drowping dayes a bawd :
 Shee onely left of all this beaftly ftore,
 Muft needs be worfe then parents were before.

What marveile, then, if fhee did flee by night,
 And fent a horne unto her lord and fere,
 To blow the death of all his brave delight ?
 That gadding moode fhee learned of *fa mere*,
 Who lightly vailde at ery wanton whoope :
 How could fhee then but to Valperga ftooke ?

Ne can fhee chufe but prove the proverbe true,
 (Won with a word, and loft with one yll looke)
 Giazzo knowes Bianca feekes for newe ;
 Hee whilome was a vowell in her booke :
 Giazzo wrought Valperga out of grace,
 Giazzo fcornd, Valperga hath his place.

Giachomo
 Scapardone,
 her father, a
 great uferer.

Yet both in lashe at length this Creffed leaves,
 And, Megra like, purfues their love with hate :
 Such is the fruite of ruffians, roages, and theeves,
 Which framde her heart when fhee was formde by fate :
 Her fathers live (Scappardone being dead)
 And divers feedes doth divers natures breede.

(O happie man !) Giazzo fcornes her love,
 (Valperga bleft) that knowes her murderous minde.
 Wee have ynough ; her truth let others prove,

And rest content with what wee left behinde.
Wee suckte the sweete, let others drinke the draffe,
Wee eate the corne ; what skilles who chews the chaffe ?

The Countesse of Zeland continueth in her
complaint.

Now, gallants, judge, if it with honour stands
For any lord a lady thus to rate,
Or blase with scorn their pleasure at her hands ?
If it ne grees with glory of their state,
Helpe to excuse Biancas deadly hate,
Who now beginnes such bloudy newes to blase,
As endlesse shame her infamie will raise.

Or give her leave to use what cloake she may,
For once report wil much inlarge her misse :
In womens moodes there is no meane, they say,
They (scorned) love : so huge their liking is,
Of force as great their hate must be ywis :
What folly, then, Giazos mynde did blame,
To think my wrath would cease through open shame ?

How could he wene my friendship for to force
By ringing out the lewdnesse of my life,
Sith shame compelles the bad to fall to worse ?
Where discord is, new wrong increaseth strife,
Revenge is fought where injuries are rife.
Waft, then, the way to reave my wrangling hate
Invectives vile to fet upp on my gate ?

O no ! God wot, my mightie litle hart
Was well nye burft, my blame was blased fo :
Thefe rymes I fung with notes of mufickes art,
Bianca named in every wanton shew,
Constrained me, wretch, from Pavie for to go :
To Mantua then I did my journey take,
Where open houle I kept for credits fake.

And placed there according to my will,
With bloudie hate my murdrous hart was bent
Giazzo lord Valperga eake to kill.
A thoufand feates of murder I invent,
As many fears my purpose did prevent :
I loth, yet would, and willing ftoode in awe :
Such brunts they byde that venter breach of lawe.

Till vice vertue hath vanquisht in the feeld,
Then reafon, lawe, rule, feare, and all adew.
Their minds, their harts, to nought but folly yeeld ;
In spoile they fport, they laugh at mifchiefes new :
The prooffe of which, alas ! to late I rewe,
For when my feare my furie put to flight,
I living dyde, till I had wrought my fpight.

And fith this acte to doe my minde did mafe,
This traine I laide to tyce a trustie frend :
In place of veue I gallants gave the gafe,
Their bonets vaild, Bianca ftreight did bend,
Through friendly showe a *bon jour* for to fend :
To parle oft I did my felfe apply,
Before I trust by talke each youth to try.

In making love they prettie prattle ufde,
But nought it vaild to hault before the lame,
For I, of yore with wylie woordes abusde,
As children brent doe after dread the flame ;
At fugged speache I made a sporting game :
But ah (ay mee !), to worke mine overthrow,
Untimely came to Mantua dom Pietro.

Dom Pietro,
a lustie younge
capitaine, her
lustie lover.

This capitaine stout went flaunting to and fro,
Till loe (ill luck !) mee wretched hee espyes.
My gallant port befeemde a countesse show ;
My beautie then, my brave arraye hee eyes,
While blinded love into his fancie flyes,
And stryving he doth cause his fire increafe :
Thus warres he founde when most hee hoapte of peace.

Unarmed yet to match with Cupids force,
With conges kinde he wrayed his loving moode ;
Next, fighes he sends to move me to remorse,
Then paintes his pen, thus strange his fancies stoode :
My yea would save, my nay should shead his blood.
Quick answere make, Dom Pietro hath decreede
To live in joy, or else to die with speede.

These lines receivde, I spyed my novis heate,
Who lookt and lackt the recompence of love,
Which sorne in mee did cause him more to sweate :
Hee fight, I smilde, his joy my noy did move ;
Which thwarting showes (past hope) inforst him prove,
If that his lute soone might (his passions showne)
Could force his sweete his hard mishap to mone.

But when I saw his love did still increase,
As hee one night lamenting layes did yell,
My gates were ope in signe and shew of peace,
In came this lord, in minde his griefs to tell :
But loe ! abashte, he first to blushing fell ;
In chamber frayes, of both my selfe the best,
This onfet gave to cheare my chofen guest.

Biancas breach of chaste and modest lawe
May seeme full straunge to you, my loving lord,
To ope my gates to one I never sawe,
When known friends so falsifie their word.
Dread not (quoth he) Dom Pietro doth accord,
From sorrowes free, yet free Biancas slave,
To like but what his love desires to have.

I aunswared soone : with fugged shewes full ofte,
Such lords as you faire ladies still beguiles,
But suites obtained, they, fillie soules, are scofte,
Then choice, in chaunge, your love and faith exiles.
Not so in mee (quoth hee) ; I want such wiles :
For prooffe, commaund what service pleaseth you,
The which performde, then thinke Dom Pietro true.

In hoape (quoth I) your wordes and deedes are one,
I first will trust your faith, then after taste :
To quite your love Bianca is your owne.
Dom Pietro streight did execution haste,
And bashfull earst his best belovde imbrafte.
With fugged wiles I so this gallant wrought,
As sure I was a godeffe in his thought.

Affurde of which, to fawce his sweetest sport
A fighe I fetcht, and squemish fayned to bee :
Whoe worth (quoth I) Giazzo lewde report,
Valpergas scorne, two earles of high degree !
Their traytrous tongues so fore have flaundred mee
That death I wish, but destine will not foe,
And they triumph that wrought my timelesse woe.

Dom Pietro then did bluster forth this speach.
(Ah) verlets vile, from natures lawe which swerve,
Ere longe I fure your traytrous tongues will teach,
To flaunder her whom duetie wills you serve :
And then he vowde with speede their flesh to carve ;
Soon shall they prove (quoth hee) if I doe faine,
And you shall see if deedes and woordes are twaine.

I glad of which, yet fad I seemde in shewe,
And fighting faid, Looke to your selfe, my sweete ;
Your hurt, my death, in hart I love you foe :
Which friendly wordes his furie more did heate.
Fare well (quoth hee) till I have wrought this feate :
This hand and blade their babling tongues shal worme.
Which wordes with deedes he (cruel) did performe.

For loe ! one night hee did forestaule their way :
But, weaklie armde Valperga was intrapte ;
Giazzo, blest, was absent at this fray.
Oore wayde with force Valperga was intrapt,
That (ah !) his death untimely there hee rapt ;
Who dying cryde, Dom Pietro did the deede.
Streight hew and crie to searce him out doth speede.

Hee found, forthwith unto the duke was brought,
 And paines at large my love and lothsome hate.
 The fuite of friendes in grace Dom Pietro wrought ;
 To salve my misse repentaunce came to late.
 Good ladies, yet note well my fall and fate,
 My wealth, my weades, my sweete delights to shée,
 Intice, not warne, without the fauce of woe.

The thought
 of wonted
 pleasures in-
 creaseth the
 myfers paine.

But listen well unto my filthie fall.
 Payse blisse with bale, sweete life with fower end,
 And you shall finde my joy oore wayde with thrall :
 Of freedome reft, in prifon closely pend,
 Distrest, unhelped, forfooke of kinne and frend ;
 Yea, more then straying, [strange] so fowle my follies ware
 As gould ne vayld to cleare my clowdes of scare.

Ne could I (wretch) take well in worth my woe,
 My former sweete did so increafe my fowre.
 My homely cheare, my costly cates did shew,
 My prifon vile, of yore my princely bowre,
 My laughing friends, by foes that then did lowre :
 Controwld and scornde, who thousands did commaunde,
 Once crave and have, denyde now eche demaunde.

My lothsome couche presenteth to my vewe
 My beds of doune, with thought of sweete delights.
 Thus day and night my willfull harme I rewe,
 Ech thought of grace my conscience guilt affrights,
 Yet (loth to die) against repentaunce fightes,
 Till due desert, by lawe and justice lead,
 Did dome my misse with losse of my poore head.

The which in place I ready am to pay,
Acknowledging my faultes before you all :
God graunt my life with such effect you way,
As you may be forewarned by my fall :
Of lawlesse love the end is bitter gall.
I now have fayd, and for their witnesse crye,
How so I livde, I do repentant dye.

The Argument for Cressids complaint.

THE inconstancie of Cressid is so readie in every mans mouth, as it is a needeleffe labour to blase at full her abuse towards yong Troilus, her frowning on Syr Diomedes, her wanton lures and love : neverthelesse, her companie scorned, of thousandes sometimes fought, her beggerie after brave-rie, her lothsome leprosie after lively beautie, her wretched age after wanton youth, and her perpetuall infamie after violent death, are worthy notes (for others heede) to be remembred. And for as much as Cressids heires in every corner live, yea, more cunning then Cressid her felfe in wanton exercises, toyes and inticements, to forewarne all men of such filthes, to perswade the infected to fall from their follies, and to rayse a feare in dames untainted to offend, I have reported the subtile fleites, the leaud life, and evill fortunes of a courtifane, in Cressid[s] name ; whom you may suppose, in tattered weedes, halfe hungerstarved, miserably arrayde, with scabs, leprosie, and mayngie, to complaine as followeth.

Cressids complaint.

You ramping gyrles, which rage with wanton lust,
Beholde in me the bitter bloumes of chaunge.
For worne with woe, who wallowes in the dust,
And, lepre like, is double mayld with maynge.
For my defart this fortune is not straunge :
Disdaine my life, but listen to my mone :
Without good heede the hap may be your owne.

Though now I am anoynted with annoy,
My hyde bepatcht with scabs of fundry hewe,
I fometime was the star of stately Troy ;
With beautie blift, my venes as azures blewe,
No fault in me but that I was untrue :
In Priams court who did not Cressid like ?
In lue of love who gave she not the gleake ?

Where I was lov'd I seemed alwayes straunge,
Where litle waide I won with gleames of grace,
My gadding mynd had such delight in chaunge,
As feldome twice the best I did imbrace ;
And once beguild with beautie of my face,
With ebbes of griefe did fall his flouds of joy,
He fu'd and serv'd, but Cressid then was coy.

I did intice King Priams sonnes to love,
And did repine the poorest should go free ;
My thralls for grace a thousand wayes did prove,
On whom I smyld a happie man was he :

The wifest wits were thus bewicht by me ;
But as the hawke in mewe at randome lives;
Yet diet keepes her gorge as feldome greves ;

So I that livde with store of foode at large,
When hunger pincht on lustie youthes I prayd :
If boystrous lads, my gorge did overcharge,
For tiring meate the deintie boyes were wayde.
Thus with a meane my prime of pride was staide :
Then was I faire, my traine with oyle was trickt,
My feathers freshe were dayly prunde and pickt.

No toy, no gaude, ne straunge devise I see,
Though not the first, the same I second had :
Glad was the youth that fastned ought on me
Of brave array : in chaunge I still was clad.
My cost to see the courtly dames were mad ;
They did repine the peeres should Cressid love,
When rascals scarce to them did liking move.

Such fancies straunge were figur'd in my face,
As few there were but my good will did move.
I traird them on with outward shew of grace :
My garter one, another had my glove,
My colours all did weare in fine of love ;
But where in hart I lov'd and liked best,
He ever wore the spoyle of all the rest.

Syr Diomedes got both brooch and belt of cost,
The which in right to Troilus belongs,
An eyefore fure to him that lov'd me most,

The propertie
of a cour-
tesan to main-
taine one with
the spoile of
another.

Who might repine, but not revenge his wrongs :
 Least notes of hope were turnd to desperate songs.
 The rest did love as courtiers do in showe,
 But he, good foule, did pine away with woe.

Yet cruell I did smile to see his smart,
 Who fomtime warmd his woes with flender hap,
 Which freefd againe with frownings overthwart ;
 And when with joy he pratled in my lap,
 With peevish speach I would his pleasures snap ;
 For wronging whom the Trojans did me paint,
 In hart a friend, in face and forme a faint.

Then judge you may my beautie bare great fway,
 Which thus inthrawld by love a princes sonne,
 My state no lesse that durst his futes denay :
 A world it was to heare what praise I wonne,
 A wonder more how soone my pride was donne.
 My forme did fade, my beautie prov'd a blase,
 Or as a toy which forced fooles to gafe.

Painting com-
 mon among
 courtifans.

Declining yet I had a present shift :
 A painted face did please a gasinge eye ;
 But furlfed stufte prov'd no induring drift,
 My flibber fauce when wanton girles espie,
 With open mouth the fame in court they cry :
 Poore Cressid, then, no sooner came in place,
 But fortie frumpes were framed by her face.

Some said that I a passing picture drue,
 Some would have drawen the figure of a sot,

The crabtreeface would have mee mend his hue,
Some in my cheeke did faine to cleare a spot,
And all to rub my starche away, godwot :
If, meffellike, my painting so they pilde,
They fmylde and faid my filk no colour hilde.

My felfe did laugh to see, my painting cleârde
The straung defects that withered age did bring :
A horseface then, a tawnie hyde appearde,
A wrinkled mumpes, a foule mishapen thing,
A fea of hate, where lively love did spring.
Thus beauties beames to clowdes of sorne to chaunge
So soone, mee thought, was fure a myrrour straunge.

Yet so I preast amid the courtly crew,
Who once espyde a fresh the sport begon :
Some faid I lookt now of a passing hew,
A scarce, some cryde, to keepe goodface from funne.
Thus was I scornd when youthfull pride was don :
Some wild me learne anew my A. B. C.
With backward reade from H. to skip to B.

How evil the
courtesies of a
coutefan is ac-
quited, if she
live to be
aged.

But as the hawke, to gad which knowes the way,
Will hardly leave to cheake at carren crowes,
If long unfervde ; she waites and wants her pray :
Or as the horse, in whom disorder growes,
His jadish trickes againe wil hardly loose :
So they in youth which Venus joyes do prove,
In drouping age Syr Chaucers jestes wil love.

My felf for profe : when wanton yeres were worne,
 When lookes could yeald no love, but lothsome hate,
 When in my face appeard the form of fcorne,
 When luft for fhame with me might found debate,
 Although I did turne tayle to foules of ftate,
 At vauntage yet with bafes byrdes I met :
 On kytes I prayde till I could partridge get.

But I fo long on carren crowes did pray,
 My poyfoned bloud in colour waxed pale,
 In natures ayde myne age had wrought decay.
 Now liften, rampes, for here begins my tale ;
 Before my blyffe, but now I blafe my bale,
 For phyfickes arte my fuffets can not cure,
 Bound fo perforce, the worft I muft indure.

The difeafes
 that followe
 wanton and
 difordered
 living.

In feeking fport my haire did fhed in jeft,
 A forrie joy to ceafeleffe forrowe plight ;
 French feavers now in me can take no reft,
 From bones to flefh, from flefh in open fight,
 With grinckcomes greafe beholde a monftrous wight !
 My lovers olde with (fawth !) their browes doth bend :
 Of Creffids luft, loe here the lothfome end !

Beggerie the
 end of courte-
 fans.

Glad is ſhe now a browne breade cruft to gnawe,
 Who, deintie once, on fineft cates did frowne ;
 To couch upon foft feames a pad of ftrow,
 Where halfe milikt were ftately beds of downe :
 By neede enforft, ſhe begs on every clowne
 On whom but late the beft would gifts beftow ;
 But ſquemifh then, God dyld ye, ſhe faid no.

From top of state to tumble thus to thrall,
Too froward fure dame Fortune was in this,
But higheft trees in fine have hardeft fall,
A merrie meane her partiall hand doth miffe;
She pines with pain, or bathes her thralles in bliffe:
Best therefore, then, for to withstand her might,
With sword of fame in vertues band to fight.

But (ah!) in vaine, I frame excufe by fate,
When due defart doth worke my overthrowe;
Ne was I firft by fortune ftauld in state,
My roome by byrth did high renoune bestow,
Though wicked life hath wrapt me now in woe:
A warning faire, a myrour full of mone,
For gadding gyrles a bone to gnaw upon.

Take heede in time, leaft had I wift you rew,
And thus perforce I hold my tyred tongue:
Me thinkes I heare the bell to found adew,
My withered corps with deadly cold is clung,
A happier turne if I had dyed yong:
My shrouding sheete then had not been of fhame,
Who, dying now, doth live in filthy fame.

Sive bonum, five malum, fama est.

*The Argument for the difcource of
Rinaldo and Giletta.*

GOOD reader (to continue thy delight) I have made chaunge
of thy exercife of reading bad verfe, with the proffer of

worffer profe ; requesting (as earst I have) that thou wilt vouchsafe my well meaning, and mend what thou findest amisse. This discourse was first written in Italian by an unknowne authour, the argument of whose woorke infueth. Rinaldo, masking with faire Giletta (at her brothers marriage) was so straungly surprised with the love of her, that necessitie inforst him to discover his sorrowes : Giletta, sufficiently perswaded of his constancie (after long suite by Rinaldo made) was in the end contented to love. After these two (secretely) had thus assured themselves, Rinaldo fellicke, in whose absence one Seigner Frizaldo (by her parentes consent) was an earnest futer to Giletta, who (inferring on the familiaritie between Rinaldo and Giletta) became jealous : to quench whose mistrust, Giletta (for feare of her friendes displeasure) was forst to make a shewe of good will towards Frizaldo, whome she loved not, and to hate Rinaldo, whome she liked as hir life. Rinaldo (unacquainted with his maiestresse meaning) by the perverse practises of Frizaldo was driven into despaire, in so muche as he leapt into the river of Poo, of purpose to drowne him selfe ; but wearie of this enterprife (labouring for life) he recovered the shoare : afterwards was knowne unto Giletta, and, having notice of Frizaldos trecherie, he slue him in a combat, and after that, with the consent of her friendes, married Giletta.

The Storie at large.

IN Italie (neare to the river of Poo) there dwelled a noble man of great reputation, called the Lord de Bologna, who (besides his speciall credite with his prince, his desired

companie among the noble men, his uncontrouled sway both in court and countrie, the great possessions, inheritances, revenues, annuities, and other commodities he had to maintaine his honourable calling, to worke his chiefeſt comfort) had by the lady Katherine his wife a toward yong gentleman to his ſonne, called Petro de Bologna, and alſo a daughter, whoſe name was Giletta, at that time unmatched both for vertue, beautie, and ſhape.

Petro de Bologna, having overrun ninetene or twentie yeares (ſtill overlookt with the counſelling eyes of his naturall parents, aſſured friends, and carefull tutors) became not now only deſierous of more libertie, but wonne with the inticing pleaſure of the court, and finding in him ſelf ſufficient cauſe of deſart, he bent him ſelfe wholly to profeſſe the exerciſes of a perfect courtier; wherein in ſhort time he ſo greatly profited, as that he was reputed to be one of the gallanteſt gentlemen in all Italie. Petro de Bologna (attaining this eſtimation) lived awhile unwitcht with the alluring beauties of brave ladies; yet on the ſudden, ſubjected with the ſight of fayre Juliet (a noble mans daughter of the fayd countrie) and joyning her excellent ſhape with the report of her matchleſſe vertue, he forthwith transformed his late liking unto ſuch faythful love, as ſecretly he vowed that neyther change nor chaunce ſhould (whiles life laſted) remove his affection; and to make his thraldome knowne, by continuall ſervice he craved reward. Maiſtreſſe Juliet, finding his wordes in workes, and perceiving by the often alteration of his colour what humour moſt of all ſeard him (joyning the aſſured knowledge of his loyall love with other his deſarts) preſently, in thought, ſhe gave conſent to love; ſo that afterward ſhe uſed towardes Petro de Bologna

what honest courtesie she coulde. The newes of this love was suddenly spread throughout the whole court, and in the end it came unto their parents eares, who, waying the equalitie of the match, gave willingly consent unto that these two lovers most desired. And to exile all jealous mistrust that lingring might breede, the marriage day was in great haste appointed.

To honour which a worlde of people resorted unto the Lord de Bolognas castle ; for the intertainment of whiche guesstes, there neither wanted costly cheare, curious shewes, or pleasaunt devises, that eyther money, friendship or cunning might compasse. And to be short, divers gentlemen that were the bridegromes companions (the more to honour the marriage) presented him one night with a maske, so curiously set forth as it yealded a singular delight unto all the beholders. Among the which maskers ther was one Roberto Rinaldo (a gentleman of better qualities and shape then either of byrth or living) made choice to maske maistresse Giletta the bridegromes sifter. But on the sudden he was so surprised with her passing beautie, as he fared as one whose senses had forgone their dutifull office, he ofte forgot to use due reverence unto his maistresse. Sometimes he masked without measure, and many times, when the rest presented their ladies with voluntarie prattle, he used silence. Thus continually visited with passionate fits (of the beholders marked, of his maistresse misliked) time in the ende forced him and the rest from dauncing ; whiche done, the maskers were invited unto a costly banquet, who, (marching with their ladies) with manly force encountred with many a monster, whose grosse bodies were transformed into a sugred substance. The maskers nowe (on easie re-

quest) did off their visardes, as wel to make them selves knowne unto their maistresses, to manifest their zeale to-wardes the lorde of the house, the bridegrome and his faire bride, as to shew their desire to delight the whole compaignie. Rinaldo (greatly ashamed of his disordered masking) with blushing cheekes oftentimes very earnestly behelde faire Giletta. Maistresse Giletta, seeing him* in these passions, and knowing his wonted audacitie, was assured somewhat was amisse with him, so that, to be better acquainted with his malladie, with a prettie smile she used these speeches.

Quoth she : Friend Rinaldo, I suppose your visard did you great wrong this night, for that by your unperfect fight you mistooke your choice, so that, wroth with your fortunes, or angrie with poore Giletta, she hath noted a number of fouden alterations in you : but if eyther be the cause, remove your choler, and comfort your selfe, that you tempered your toung so well, as she knoweth none of your secretes.

Rinaldo, glad of this opportunitie, answered : My soveraine maistresse, in very deede, I greatly mistooke my choice : for wheras I had thought and determined to have made it so indifferent, as I might have used my tongue at will and pleasure, I confesse it fel out so unegal, as I (forst) must yeald unworthy to be your slave ; so that musing on this mistaking, I not only masked mute, but I forgot to present you with my willing service.

Rinaldo being newly entered into his answere, the revels broke up, and every man went unto his rest ; so that he was forced to discontinue his suite, and bid his maistresse fare well : which reverently done, he forthwith went into his

chamber, and so to bed ; but his sleepe he divided on those whose heades were free from fancies : for he (God wot) one while, matching his base estate with her highe calling, sawe an impossibilitie of favour. Anone, joyning her curteous disposition with the force of love, was fed with slender hope. Thus hanging betwene hap and harme, the more he strived the more he was measht in the nettes of restlesste fancie. But in the end resolved to prosecute his suit, he suddenly caused his man to light a candle, and then to proffer his service, to paint his sorrowes, and to use excuse for his late silence, he invented these verses following.

The pynning wight, presented with reliefe,
With sudden joy awhile forgoes his sense ;
The retchlesse youth, likewise, besieged with griefe,
With feare dismayd, forgets to use defence :
Such is the force of hastie joy or woe,
As for the time few knoweth what they doe.

And I unwares, with both extremes forgone,
Subject to love, that never felt his force,
One while dismayd, I starvde in wretched mone,
And straight through hope, I tasted sweet remorse :
Souft with these stormes, when I shuld mone my suit,
Small wonder though a while I masked mute.

And yet (God not) my fighes did plead amaine :
They broke the clouds that cowed all my care ;
My ruthfull lookes, presented still my paine,
As who wold say: When wil she cleare thy scare?

Attending thus, when you should note my case,
The time forewent ere I could sue for grace.

But now (constraynd) neede makes the creeple goe :
My festred fore (of force) some cure must seeke,
My woundes so bleed I can not hide my woe.
My hurt is heald, if you my service like :
Let egall love go bath in wished blisse,
Suffiseth me my maistresse hand to kisse.

So thus, dear dame, you know my case and cure :
It rests in you my life to save or spyll.
If you desire I should these stormes indure,
Commaund my death, and I will work your wyl ;
If not, in time him for your servaunt chuse,
Who living dies till you his service use.

Roberto Rinaldo.

This little leasure, together with the disquietnesse of mynde (as appeareth by the plainenesse of this invention) wrought an alteration in Rinaldo's muse ; yet, for that his devise somewhat answered his owne estate, he was content to present it to maistresse Giletta ; and, persevering in the sayde purpose, the next morning he clothed him selfe in ruffet satten, garded with blacke velvet, which witnessed he did both hope and dread : he thus appointed (chusing a place of moste advauntage) willingly lost these verses. Giletta, by this evening fare well looking for such a morning welcome, was the first that found them ; who suddenly withdrew her selfe, with earnest desire, effectually to peruse Rinaldo's devise. Which done, one while she scorned his

bafe estate, and straight she was contented of Rinaldo to be beloved; so that (her mynde distempered with the contrarietie of fancies) neyther angrie nor well pleased, she wrote this following answere :

Although it pleased you this other night (occasion by me unhappily ministred) to intertaine time with an ordinarie profession of love, yet (master Rinaldo) you doe both me and your selfe great injurie to continue your needeleffe labour with such importunancie to me. For that you trust to overthrow my vertues, with the assault of wanton persuasions your selfe, for that I am assured you warre in vaine; but for that I want wit to incounter you in words or writing, I wil hencefoorth likewise want will to take knowledge of eyther your exercises. Thus muche (being your firste attempt) I thought good to answere, least you should think with needleffe nicenesse I acquitted your courtesies. And for that you knowe the successe of your faultlesse adventures, I trust to be no more troubled in answering your idle letters.

Giletta de Bologna.

This letter so soone as Giletta had surely sealed, she presented her selfe in the great chamber: Rinaldo (delighted in nothing so muche as in the sight of his maistresse) with the first saluted her. Maistresse Giletta courteously (as she did the rest) acquitted him, dissembling as then her knowledge of his verses; but notwithstanding this carelesse shewe, her mynde was combred with a thousand contrarie fancies: one while she mistrusted the invention to be his owne devise, an other while she feared to deliver her answer; nowe she loved, straight she scorned, and yet in her

greatest disliking she liked to looke on Rinaldo; and as it is the nature of lovers (subject to a thousand distresses) to search all meanes to be assured of their choyces loyaltie, so here maistresse Giletta (newly entered into that profession) by the often beholding of Rinaldo, and marking the colour in his apparell, tooke occasion, under the colour of a pleasant request, to be acquainted (perhaps) with his inward disposition, in so much when as other ladies charged such as they thought well of with service, quoth she, For that I know (maister Rinaldo) you are a very good poet, I injoyne you without further studie to shewe in vearse to what ende you weare blacke upon ruffet? Quoth Rinaldo (willing to obey this injunction) Deare lady, although my fight in poetrie be but small, yet will I (to fatisfie your request) supply my inabilitie of skill with the abilitie of good will; and to execute the same, he called for pen, ynke, and paper, in the presence of a number writing as followeth.

When sommers force is past, and winter sets in foote,
The hart and strength of hearbs and trees is nourisht by
the roote.

The frostes and froward blasts doth nip the naked spray,
The fommer liverie of the bowes with colde is worne away;
Yet lives such rootes in hope that Phœbus glimering
beames

Will once dissolve fyr Hiems force, his frostes and yfie
streames,

And lend reliefe at length, when he their lacke should see,
With coates of leaves to cloth their armes, fit garments
for a tree.

Even so both hope and dread doth wage continuall fight,

Dear dame, in me whose fommers joy you raifde with
friendly fight,

But love, unlookt (God wot) to yoke my wanton yeares,
Straight ufde his force, and bafe defart confumd my joy
with feares.

It rayfed froftes of fcorne, my fire to overthrowe,
This chaungd the fommer of your fight to winter of
my woe :

Yet fled my heart to hope, who faintly feedeth me,
Your pittie paffeth poore eftate, where faythfull love you fee,
He shewes by fcrete signes your vertues every one,
And faves your beautie breedes no pride, that brueth all
my mone.

But maugre friendly hope, bafe hap with me doth ftrive,
Who weares my flesh with withered feare, how fo my hart
doth thrive ;

Which is the very caufe why I thefe colours weare.
The ground of hope bewrayes my heart, the gards my
desperate feare :

But if with graunt of grace my griefes you meane to quite,
Both hope and dread shall foone be chaungd to colours of
delight.

Roberto Rinaldo.

These verses were reasonably liked, both for that they were done of the fouden, and that they fomewhat answered the demaunde ; and yet this proffered love to Giletta bred no fufpicion, for that every one thought Rinaldo, on fo good occafion, could not otherwise choofe but proffer fome shewe of loving fervice. After many had thus commended the redineffe of Rinaldos wit, by profe of this invention, at the length (quoth Giletta halfe fmyling) Maifter Rinaldo, you

have clearkly answered my question; and nowe, knowing your cunning, I may haply set you a worke in matters of more importance. Rinaldo (glad of this commendation) made answere, her causes could never wearie him, for that he had both left his own and al other businesse of purpose to do her service. The musicke now (a while) commaunded them from prattle, and the gallants addrested them selves to dauncing, where Rinaldo, to make amendes for his other nights negligence, requested to leade maistresse Giletta the measures. Giletta, although at the first made the matter coy, yet, won by importancie, accepted his courtesie. Rinaldo, somewhat encouraged by hope, bestowed him selfe to the best liking he could, and (to report the truth) with the perfection of arte he made full satisfaction for his former disorder. The dauncers, nowe wearied with heate, applied themselves unto more cooler pastimes, and Rinaldo and Giletta went to take the ayre at a window, where Giletta, to bewray her knowledge of his verses, used these speeches.

In good fayth (although against my will) I see it is my fortune to be acquainted with your secretes, so that before mistrusting, that I am most assured of by your passionate verses, which (by fortune) I found, I perceive that the late mistaking of your love intraged you; yet for that they appertaine not unto me, and that ye shall remove your anger from me (if you wil stay my returne) I will fetch them, and make restitution, assuring you that I neyther have, nor will, reveale the knowledge of them to any alive. To stay her departure, quoth Rinaldo, (softly distrayning her hand) Since my fortunes were so evill to lose them, for that seeing an impossibilitie of hap, I would have concealed my harme, I am glad my fortune is so good that they light into her

handes, to whom in right they belong, unto whose power (with vowe of continuall service) I subject my life, living, and libertie. Maistresse Giletta, raking up her conceived love, in the ashes of secrecie, thus answered : If I were so simple to be bewicht with shadowes, your intising words might, no doubt, worke spoyle of mine honour. In the chieft hope of my wel doing, quoth Rinaldo (disturbing her tale) you have truly described my present condition : for being reft of heart, the only stay of life, and dying through despaire, I am in no better state then a shadow. Well, quoth Giletta, since your wit serves you to flourish on every worde figuratively spoken, I will deliver the rest of my minde in more plaine speeches. Firft, I must confesse my inabilityie and unworthinesse to entertaine such a servant : then, graunt your wisdom to be such that you will not bestowe your able service, but where you see sufficient ability for your well deserving zeale to have deserved hyre. Nowe, to your verses : I thus muche conceive, that to colour that, your none colour bewrayes, I meane your love, else where bestowed, for that I (unhappily) ministred some speeches of mistrust, to dymme mine eyes with a vaine flourish, til time fits your better fortunes you use this fonde profession of love. Thus much I gather, both by your wordes and workes, and thus much I had thought to have delivered in, in embassage, unto this teltale paper (making shew of the letter she had written); but knowing (quoth she) letters to be very blabs, I am glad opportunitie so serves that I may deliver in wordes both what I thinke of you and your suite. With this she put up her letter againe, I thinke for that she woulde not discomfort Rinaldo with the sharpnesse thereof, who faine would have fingered the same, onely to

have bestowed his skill in answere. But to shew his able force to incounter her in wordes, In deed, quoth he, letters are but to be used in necessitie, and yet, where griefs can not otherwise be uttered, necessarie instruments ; but I find this benefit in my bondage, that if I were both hard of tong and pen, my flaming sighes, my frosen teares, my wan lookes, and withered fleshe, would witnesse*with what devotion I served : which zeale, through my chaunging colour by you noted, I not a litle joyed, and I no lesse forrowed you would not take notice to what saint I used this devotion, when as Rinaldo calleth heaven and earth to witnesse, that neyther beautie, braverie, or any other inticement, joyned with the credite of the greatest lady in all Italie, could subject his libertie, til Gilettas vertue, matcht with matchlesse beautie, reacht the pitch that stoupt his mounting thoughts, to whom, and for whom, he useth this suite, and suffreth these forowes. Giletta, seeing the continuance of his vehemencie, was pretily well perswaded of his loyaltie, in so muche as, after a number of other proffers and defences, In hope (quoth she) of your readie dutie, I admit you my fervant, with promise to measure your rewarde beyond defart. Rinaldo, glad of this conquest, after double vowe of faythfulnesse, reverently kissed his mistresse hand, and for that time committed her *a Dio*.

I will now overleape what a number of fowre and sweete thoughtes fead these unfained lovers : one while they were distempered with dread ; anon quieted with hope ; now defierous with secrete vowe to warrant eache other love ; straight hindered by some unfortunate accident, still meashed in the snares of miserie, till time, that eyther (without conditions) might gage the other loyaltie, fayth, and constancie,

provided this wished opportunitie, which was : On a day the Lord Sonfago, father to the late rehearsed bride, to perfect the glory of the fayde marriage, inuited the Lorde of Bologna, and his sonne in law, with other of their friendes and allies, unto his castle ; at whiche place Rinaldo, with the rest of the ruffling youth, on smal warning and lesse bidding, as ordinarie visitors of such pastimes, presented them selves. The dinner solemnly ended, every one was addrest unto the sport most agreeable to his or their fancie : some fell to dauncing, some to putting of purposes, and such voluntarie prattle : but Rinaldo and his Giletta, otherwise affected then to listen to those counterfet contentments (to find opportunitie to discourse of more serious matters) with a chosen companie, conveyed them selves unto one end of the great chamber, where Rinaldo, to passe the time in reporting the straunge effects of love, (playing on a lute) soung the following invention :

In bondage free I live, yet free am fettered faste ;
In pleasure paine, in paine I find a thousand pleasures plaste :
I frye, yet frosen am, I freefe amid the fire ;
I have my wish, and want my will, yet both as I desire.
I love and live by lokes, and loking workes my woe :
Were love no god, this life were strange, but as he is, not so ;
For through his awkward fitts, I suck such sweete in fower,
As I a yeare of dole would bide, to have one lightning
hower.

I like no life, but such as worketh with his will,
His wil my wish, my wish to love, betyde good luck or ill,
No choyce shall make mee chaunge, or fancie new desire,
Although desire first blew the cole that set my thoughtes
on fire.

But fire, frostes and all, fuch calme contents doth move,
As forst I graunt there is no life to that is led in love.
Yea, base I thinke his thought, that would not gladly die
To leade but halfe of halfe an houre in fuch delight as I.
Now, thou, deare dame, that workste these sweete effectes
in mee,
Vouchsafe my zeale, that onely feeke to ferve and honour
thee.

So shall my thralld brest for fancies free have fcope;
If not, it helps, I have free will to love and live in hope.

Roberto Rinaldo.

These verses, although they were in number few, yet the sweetnes of the tune, together with the rarenes of the invention, running altogether uppon contraries, made them to be fingularly well liked, especially of myftresse Giletta, who could now no longer diffemble her love: in so much as, to further occasion of knowledge, shee requested of her fervaunt to have a coppie of the faid verses. Rinaldo, of nothing more desirous then with courtesie and service to present his myftresse, having this sonet already faire written, first fatisfied her request, with the delivery thereof, and next folicited his owne forrowes, with these perfuading wordes.

My good myftresse, I am glad (quoth hee) your eare was so ready to heare my ftraunge estate discourfed, as that your heart consenteth (in perusing this worthlesse sonet) to continue in your remembraunce my fower passions, never appeased, though sometimes comforted with the sweete effects of hope. So that, if it please you to note the sequele of my life, you shal easily see the subjection of my libertie; which knowne, I no otherwise conceive of your courteous

disposition, but so often as you reade my craving woords, feing them confirmed in works, so often you will be ready to perfect my unfure hope with assured hap ; I meane, bestowe your love on him, who, were it not to do you service, would through the extremitie of love rather wish to die then live. My good servaunt (quoth Giletta) I thinke your cure stands not uppon such necessitie, but reason in time may qualifie your raging fire, and wysedome warme your frosen feares, or, at the least wise, warne you from such untemperate affections. O! no, (quoth Rinaldo): time hath made both extreemes more extreme, for when as reason would have quenched my burning love with the thought of my unwoorthines, the remembraunce of your worthines made my heate more fervent: when hope would have warmed my frosen doubttes with the knowledge of your great pitie and compassion, the consideration of my base desert streight made my cold more cruell: so that, intertayning time with these thoughtes, time hath brought both extremities now to such a mischiefe, that necessitie (perforce) commaundes mee to seeke qualification at your handes, in whose good will the temperature consisteth.

I thinke (quoth Giletta) my milde disposition, in very deede, makes you a greate deale more desirous; yea your knowledge of my inward lyking by my outward looks discovered, makes you so earnest a futer; but if I were persuaded your love to be as great in zeale as in showe, yet for that I know not whether it tends to honestie or my dishonour, I can hardly aunswear your sute: if any way, with the spoile of my good name you seeke to feede some foule affection, your love I loth, and so you sue in vaine. O! my sweete mystresse (quoth Rinaldo) your words at

one instant have joynde two contraries in such mortall fight, as to whom the victorie will incline is as yet doubtful, I meane hope and despaire; for I, earnestly beholding your lokes when as you said they shewde you loved in very deede, to my judgement I sawe in them the very image of love: therewithall (quoth I) to my selfe, *Love cannot hate the welwillers of love.* But as I was continuing this fancie, with the continuance of other your comfortable speaches, on the soudaine, an *Yf*, distrusting my loyaltie, cleane altered the case: for (trust mee, swete mystresse) my faithful love, unspotted with villanous desire, when you used those speaches, streight murmured at your suspicion; yea, dread still perswades mee your over often mistrust will hinder the acquitall of my deserte; and yet hope, desirous of victory, wills mee not to bee discomforted thorough your wife misdoubte, least silence in mee should woorke in you a greater suspicion. Wherefore, before God and you, I protest with my heart, yea if you please to use the world for after witnes, I wil sweare unto you all, I never had the thought that tended unto your dishonour: then dashe (good lady) this hard condition of foule desire from out the other covenants of love, and take my vow of faithfulness for the warrantyse of my honest and true intent. Sutes must have an end, and sorrowes a salve, either by the benefite of fortune, or violence of death; for I, thorough the extremitie of forrow, being now brought to the exigent of desperation, am forst to sue unto you for attonement, presenting unto mee, in this case, both the image of good fortune and death; of good fortune, if you love where you are loved; of death, if you hate where you are honoured. Sufficient triall you have had of my loyaltie. Since so (good lady), say yea or

no : either answere wil worke appeasement of my forrowes, the one with death, the other with delighte. Soft! (quoth Giletta) haste makes waste, your harvest is yet in grasse; you may very well stay for aunfweare. These words* with a smylyng countenaunce delivered, shee forced to departe, yet not in such hast but that Rinaldo had leysure ynoughe to rob her of a kisse; which fed him with such a sweete conceite, as that hee was perswaded, with the assault of importunancie, on the next adventure to conquer her straungnes, and attaine good will, so that, to lay his sledge with the better advantage, to her doubtfull wordes hee thus replied.

More haste then neede doth turne to waste,
and waste doth al thinges marre :
Your harvest is in grasse, good fyr,
as hastie as you are.

This doubtfull jeast, among my joyes,
my mystresse late did poppe ;
But I reply, that backward haste
can never blast my crophe.

For sith (sweete wench) my feede of love
hath taken roote in time,
And cleare escapt the frostes of scorne
that pincht it in the prime,

Now that the spring time of your grace
hath raifde it to an eare,
The kindly riping of the fame
in faith I litle feare :

For scorched fythes, like summers funne,
will hasten on this wheate ;
And stormes of teares, as heavenly dewe,
shall nourish with the heate.

The jelous weedes of foule suspect,
which lovers joyes doth sting,
Shall cropped bee with hooke of faith,
that favour freash may spring.

Then, banish dread from thee, deere dame ;
my speede will worke no waste,
Since that the season serves so well
our harvest for to haste.

Roberto Rinaldo.

These verses were written in hast, and presented in as much haste, such was Rinaldos hastie desire afresh to followe his sute ; and yet not so hastie as of Giletta hartily wished, the heate of eithers love for eithers sight so hastily thyrsted. But now, to cut off circumstances, Rinaldo, uppon this new onset, charged his maistres with such vehement persuations, as her nicenesse was no force to make further defence ; in so much, uppon a modest occasion, shee yelded to love. This sweete consent by Giletta pronounced, with soudaine joy so spoiled Rinaldos senses, as for a time hee fared liked one in an extasie. But so soone as this fit was overblowne (quoth he) Rinaldo, how bountifully hath fortune dealt with thee ! How blessed is thy estate ! canst thou tell ? O, noe ! Thy joyes so hugely flow, as the least of a thousand comforts thou canst not utter. And could

good Giletta so much tender thy distresse? Could shee brooke Rinaldoes povertie? And could shee love the wight unworthie to be her slave? Her selfe said, Yea. Then (as homage of his saved life) most worthie mistresse, of thy unworthie fervaunt, receive, with vowe of continuaunce, faith, honour, love, and service. I crave no more save faithfull love (quoth Giletta): Giletta herselfe, in discharge of her duetie, will use towards her Rinaldo honour and obedience; whom if shee finde constante, let fortune doe her worst; shee hath her contentment. And yet, my good Rinaldo, (quoth shee) foresight is the onely instrument of quietnes. I knowe my father and other friends, if they knewe of our love, with stormes of displeasure would hinder the accomplishment of our desires. If whose good will by any meanes may be wonne, the execution of our joyes, I meane our marriage day, is well delayed; but if they will [not] consent, happ wel, happ ill, Giletta submitted her selfe to Rinaldoes good will. My good maistresse, (quoth hee) your poore fervaunt (full satisfied for his harde fortunes fore past, as also to come) subiectes himself to your wife consideration. Yea, Rinaldo wil not in one jot contrary Gilettas direction, althoughe hee purchase death with the execution of her pleasure. Wel, quoth Giletta, let time worke her will; yet live thou, Rinaldo, assured of thy Gilettas love, who like wife liveth in hope of thine. But in hope, sweete mystresse? (quoth Rinaldo) there is no hope withoute mistruste, and causelesse mistrust woorketh two injuries; the one in distempering the mistrusters minde, the other in suspecting the well meaninge friend. But the offence towardes mee I freely pardon, so that thou wille (to woorke thine owne quietnesse) take knowledge how that my heart is close pri-

soner in thy breast, which maye not be removed without thy consente. And for that wee must attende time for the perfection of our joyes, to intertaine time withoute distruste of loyaltie, deare lady, of thy poore servaunte, vouchsafe to take this diamond, whose poesie is *I will not false my faith*: protestinge before the hyest to accomplish those woordes in woorkes. Giletta, willingly receyvinge this ring, in this sort acquitted him: My good Rinaldo (quoth shee) I gratefully accept your gift; and, that in absence you may both thinke of mee and your vowe, for my sake weare you this jewell, wherein is written, *Fortune may hinder my love, yet none but death shall breake my vowe*.

These two lovers, having by secrete othe thus warranted eche others love, least their overlonge talke mighte breede suspicion, now conveyed themselves into the thickest of the company; where, after they had a while shewed themselves, Rinaldo in respecte of his late conqueste had the ordinarye pleasures, the which hee sawe, in skorne. In somuch that to perfecte his contentemente with sweete imaginations, hee convayed himselfe into his chamber; where, in praise of his good mystrefse and triumphe of his fortunes, hee wrote as followeth.

Beautie, leave off to brag, thy bravery is but brayd:
Thou mayst (God wot) thy visard vaile, thy wanton maskes
are wrayd.

Thy toyes in thy attire, thy plumes fortells thy pride,
Thy coyne, thy caules, thy curling cost, thy furling helpes
are spide.

Thy gages are for guesstes that garish shoves wil eye,
Else who so blinde but that he can a painted visage spie;

Then goe, and market keepe where chaffe is fowld for
corne.

I hould (God wot) thy vauntes as vaine ; thy lures and
love I scorne :

For I beloved am of one that thee doth pafse
In faith as much as fineft gold excelles the courseft braffe.
She needes no frizling feates, nor bumbaste for her breastes,
No glittering fpangles for the gafe, no jerkyns, jagges, nor
jestes ;

Her onely felfe a funne, when thou art judgde a ftarre,
Her fober lookes workes more regard then all thy ruffling
farre.

The reason is, the heavens, to reape the praife alone,
Did frame her eyes, her head, and handes of pearle and
precious ftone ;

Which jewells needes no helpe their beauties for to blafe,
When bravery shadowes fowle defectes, or serves for wan-
ton gafe.

Befides her feature rare, her further fame to raife,
Her witt, her wordes, her workes in showe, doth winne a
world of praife.

Then, beautie, have no scorne, thy roome for to refigne
To her, whose fundry markes of grace thus shewes shee is
divine.

If not, thy champion chuse, if any dare avowe
I doe the[e] wronge thee to abuse, and her so to allowe,
And him I challenge forth, by force of fight to prove
Shee hath no match whom thus in heart I honour, serve,
and love.

Roberto Rinaldo.

These verses, although they were too affectionately writ-

ten, yet for two causes they were of Giletta very well lyked : the one was thorough the humour, wherewith most women are infected, desirous to be praised ; the other, for that Rinaldo was the man that had soe highlye commended her, whom she wished to be as farre overseene in affection, as in his invention : and although she acquitted not his paines with her penne, yet with other courtesies shee sufficiently wrought his contentment. In this fort, in absence with letters, in presence with lokes, signes, and loving greetings, now and then with a stollen kisse interjoynd, for a space these lovers, the one the other delighted. But (oh !) I fighe to report, how soudainly fortune threatened the spoile of their desires, yea, when they thought themselves of her favor most assured : such are the chaunges and chaunces of love. But sith her thretning (after a number of griefes by these two lovers suffered) tourned into grace, with more willingnes I enter into discourse of their forrowes as followeth.

Rinaldo (unhappily) matched with an ague, through the extremitie of his malladie was forst to keepe his chamber, so that by this accident exiled from the sight of his faire maistresse, the furie of his fever was no sooner overpasse, but streight he was chaunged with feareful fancies, continually dreading how that his absence would turne his ladies love to mislyking. Thus hourelly visited with untemperate fittes (poore man) hee was brought so lowe as that, a live, hee represented the very image of death. Good Giletta, forrowing the long absence of her Rinaldo, in the ende hearing the unwelcome newes of his daungerous sickness, presently fared as though shee had felt the extremitie of his fitts : one while she determined to goe her selfe and

Passing love
the cause of
jelousie.

Frizaldo a
futer to
Giletta.

Or unwel-
come guest.

comfort him ; streight she dreaded the fuspicion that might growe thereof ; especially for that Seignor Frizaldo, by the procurement of her friends, was so hot a futer, as without some jelous thought he could never part her fighte. Yet, notwithstanding all these hinderaunces, in the ende she was resolved to visite her lovinge Rinaldo, not by secreet stealth, but with such a chofen companie, as it could be no otherwise thoughte but that onely for courtesie she went to comfort him. Seignior Frizaldo (with the rest of the gentles) would needes waite of mistrefse Giletta, whose service, I am afsured, was yll accepted, and himselfe to Rinaldo worfe welcome. But secrete griefes, shadowed with fained good will, Giletta outwardly for his curtesie thanked Frizaldo, and went with him and the rest to Rinaldoes lodging: which courtly company, at their first comming, were brought into the sickmans chamber, whom when Giletta espyed to lye languishing on his bedde, to comforte him first of all she used this greeting. How fares my good fervaunt? (quoth shee). Rinaldo, on the foudaine vewing his ladie, was so overcome with foudaine joy, as on the foudaine, the aunswere of his estate was farre to seeke: which when Giletta perceived, in this fort shee continued her comforting woordes. What man! (quoth shee) be of good cheere; a lustie hart will soone conquere this sicknes, dismay not your selfe with feare. By this time a fighe had untyde Rinaldoes tongue, who very softly, for feare of fuspicion, thus replied: In very deede, sweete mystresse (quoth hee) if I had had the use of my hart, longe or this my griefes had beene eased: but, ah! my hart else where attends; it is Giletta (and none else) that may dispose the fame. Well (quoth shee) since I have the use thereof, I am taught by

good authoritie to keepe the founde from the sicke : your body is now distempered with a fever, your heart with mee fareth no worse then mine ; so that at the least I will have the bestowing therof, till I see you in perfect health, yet thinke that the comfort both of mine and your owne shal be applyed for your reliefe. Here Giletta gave libertie unto the rest for to greete Rinaldo, who bestowed their talke (as they thought) to his great delight ; but Rinaldo, that rather regarded the sober lookes and modest behaviour of Giletta then the shyning braverie of the rest, gave small eare unto their plesant prattle ; yea, seemed halfe offended with the continuaunce thereof, as who would saye, the sight of their wantonnes wrought a fresh remembrance of his wretchednes. And truly there can be no greater torment unto the pensive wight then to be throwne into the companie of the pleasant ; not for that he repineth at them, but that he cannot attaine their happinesse. The company perceyving the small comforte Rinaldo toke in their persuasions, on the soudaine became silente, so that Giletta had now libertie to make an ende of her tale : who (for that night drue neare) knit it uppe with this farewell. I see wel, good servaunt (quoth shee) that our company (although wee came for courtesie) is rather a cumber then a comfort to your sorrowes, and therefore wee will now betake you to God. But to witnesse I alwayes with your contentment, vouchsafe this posie of giliflowers, which carrieth this vertue, that about whose head they bee bestowed, the same wighte shal not bee much frighted with fearefull fancies. God graunt that be true (quod Rinaldo) for trust mee, sweete mystresse, the disquietnes of my minde hurtes mee more then the distemperature of my body ; but howe much of this

Others pleasures a grieffe to the wretched.

A secreete vertue in giliflowers.

vertue faileth in your flowers, so much I already finde in your friendly woordes ; and to continue in remembraunce your care to cure my miseries, weare you, good mystresse, this rosemary braunche. Giletta, willingly receyving the same, for that she was to depart, with the help of another gentlewoman raised Rinaldoes pillowes, and layde his bedde furniture handfomly about him, where Giletta bowing over him to amende some thinge oute of order, by fortune left with Rinaldo a kisse, the comforte whereof exiled the grieve hee should else have conceived by her departure. But I am assured this poore stolen kisse no more pleased Rinaldo then it offended Frizaldo, who (God wot) with great impatiencie murmured at these two lovers familiaritie ; and although the rest toke no heede of their speaches, yet his jelious suspicion both read the letters of their flowers, and wrested out the sence of their subtile wordes. Neverthelessse (for the place sake at that time) hee hidde his conceived hatred towards Rinaldo with a friendly farewell, but in the waye homeward, hee pincht Giletta with this scoffinge request : Away with this rosemary (quoth hee) lest it hide some infection (being sometime sicke Rinaldoes). That maye offende you (quoth Giletta) ; if it were any wayes infected by this time the open ayre hath purged it, but if before this time, I my selfe am infected, it smally helps to throwe away this poore braunch, and so your counsel is out of season ; and yet for the same I courteously thancke you. Well, quoth Frizaldo, snuffinge at this aunswaere, you were best to perfecte your delighte, to weare a rose with your rosemarie ; meaning the first letters of those two flowers aunswaered her lovers name, Roberto Rinaldo. These woordes stroake poore Giletta dead, and yet shee pretily

(dissembling her knowledge of Frizaldos minde) found out meanes to cutte off those crosse speeches with arguments that meetely well contented him. But, poore wench, so soone as shee was bestowed alone in her chamber, solitarie shee wroughte a frethe remembraunce of Frizaldos doubtfull woordes; but yet, after shee had a space bewayled her fortunes, shee wisely entered into the consideration of her owne estate, and waying howe greatly that Frizaldo was favoured of her friendes, and on the contrarie parte, Rinaldo of small accompte, shee concluded (to please all her friendes and contente both her lovers) to use this policie. Frizaldo, whom shee smally esteemed, shee mente to feede with courteous delays; Rinaldo, whom in deede shee honoured, shee determined in heart to love, and in shewe to hate; thinking by this meanes that she should extinguish and quench Frizaldos jealous suspicion, which in very deede contraried her imagination. For although he liked Gilettas intertaynment, yet hee continually feared her affection towards Rinaldo; yea, hee eyed her with such mistrust, as that shee could hardly finde occasion to acquainte her Rinaldo with this devise. Notwithstanding, hopeinge of favourable time to execute her purpose, shee continued her fained good will towards Frizaldo, but Rinaldo shee would neither see, fend, nor write unto: who, wonderinge at this insolencie and straungenes, although hee had hardly recovered his empayred health, yet hee adventured abroad to learne the cause of this soudaine alteration. But his overmuch temeritie and makinge hast herein had wroughte wofull waste of his life had not God wonderfully saved him. For, repayringe unto the place of his wonted joy and accustomed comforte, hee found his mystresse dallying with

Jelofie can
never be
perfectly
quenched.

a fresh gallant: on him shee would not vouchsafe to looke; yea, if on occasion hee saluted her by the name of hys myftresse, very disdainfully and scornefully, or not at all, shee aunfweared him: on him shee frowned with a curst countenance: on his enimie shee fleared with a delightfome favour: with him shee would not speake: with his enimie shee continually talked. Which unfriendly welcome was far worfe (God wot) to Rinaldo then his late sickness; but worst of al he digested the report of the courtiers, who (inferring on their familiaritie) gave out for certainty that Segnior Frizaldo should marie with myftres Giletta. These newes poore Rinaldo was like ynough to credite, himselfe seeing such apparaunte prooffe thereof; yea, hee credited them so farre, as hee could not away with any thought of hope: in so much that scorning both courte and companie, as one forsaken of himselfe, hee forthwith went unto his chamber, wheras passionately discourfinge on his harde fortunes, which plaint hee powdred with a thousand fighes, by chaunce hee fastned his eye on the jewel which Giletta had bestowed on him; and with little lust reading the posie thereof, supposing she had falsified her vowe, toucht with the prooffe of his wretchednes, hee forthwith wrote these under written verses:

For faithfull love, the hate I finde in lue,
My vowe performde, the false of her beheft,
The small rewarde I reape for service true,
Her joy to see mee plunged in unrest,
Doth force mee say, to finde an ende of paine,
O, fancie die, thou feedest hope in vaine!

I fue for grace, shee fmyles to fee my smart,
I pleade for peace, shee feeke to fowe debate,
My fowre her fweete, my grieve doth glad her hart,
I fawne, shee frownes, I love, and shee doth hate :
Sith foe, I fay, to finde an ende of paine,
O, fancie die, thou feedest hope in vaine !

Starve thou, defire, which keepeth life in love,
And fo my thought from showring woe shall ceafe,
But love alive, while fancie hope may move,
A lyving death my forrowes will increafe ;
Wherefore, I fay, to finde an ende of paine,
O, fancie die, thou feedest hope in vaine !

My fancies dead, I end of woes should finde,
My eyes, nay fease (God wot) of brackish teares
Would leave to love, whom love hath made fo blinde :
My thorned thoughtes no more should foster feares :
But oh (aye mee !) for to proroge my paine,
My fancies live, and feedeth hope in vaine.

Doe what I can, I pray on plighted troth,
I (simple) thinke, shee will not breake this bonde,
I vowe to love, I will not false my othe ;
But, ah ! I finde her false, and I too fonde :
Wherefore, good death, at once delay my paine ;
My fancies live, and feedeth hope in vaine.

Roberto Rinaldo.

Unto these verses Rinaldo fet a very follem note, and the
nighte following, hee bestowed himfelfe under Gilettas

chamber windowe, where (playing on his lute) hee very mournefully founge this passionate invention, of purpose (like unto the swanne that sings before her death) to bid his mystresse adieu for ever.

Good Giletta, hearing this forrowfull farewell, much lamented her servants estate, yet durst shee not at that instant any wayes comfort him. The cause was, Segnior Frizaldo was then in her chamber, who knew very well that it was Rinaldo, that with his follem musicke, saluted mystresse Giletta; yea, hee knew by the over often chaunging of her couler, how (notwithstanding her diffimulation) she greatly forrowed Rinaldos distresse: and therefore he thought best, during his discomforture, by some flye policie at once to overthrow him with distrust: and until the execution of this treachery, he thought best to give him this bone to gnaw uppon. First to shew his credite to be admitted into her chamber at that time of the night; next (to prove his authoritie) hee called Giletta by the name of his subject, who duetifully aunswered him with the title of her soveraigne: which done (quoth hee, looking out of the window) It is for your sake (faire lady) wee are presented with this sweete musicke; and although your unknownen welwiller maketh shew of the forrowes hee suffers not, yet courtesie wills you to intercept his paines with thanks. Poor Rinaldo, hearing Frizaldos tongue, made no staye for Gilettas thanks, but returning to his chamber (as one that had foregone his senses) a while in fighes he uttered his plainte. And after his forrowe was somewhat eased (quoth hee) Alas! good Giletta, thy exchange is very hard, to leave to be Rinaldos mystresse to become Frizaldos subject. But, Rinaldo, worse is thy hap that thou must serve her, that is subject to thy

mortal enimie : thy thraldome is intollerable, thy torments without end ; with violent death dispatch both thy servitude and forrowes, so shalt thou force them to pittie that now triumphe at thy miseries. In this fort Rinaldo continually raged at his fortunes. Well, however Rinaldo fared, Giletta was not free from forrowes : for, good soule, shee thought it hie time to acquaint her servaunt with the continuance of her love ; and although shee had attempted many wayes, yet shee found no currant opportunitie for discoverie thereof, till in the end shee determined, by letters, to deliver the embassage of her minde, to which effecte shee one day wrote these lines following :

My good servaunte, I cannot but fighe to thinke on thy forrowes, who, inferring on my straungeness, hast my faithfull love in suspicion ; and yet I cannot blame thee, that knowest not what necessitie inforceth my coyneffe : alas ! I live in the gaze of *jelous distruste*, who, with lynxes eyes, watcheth my behaviour, so that of force I am forst to carrie a shew of hatred where in heart I love. But of this assure thy selfe, although Frizaldo (whose familiaritie woorketh thy feare) weareth both my glove and garter, yet Rinaldo hath, and shall have, my heart. So that (sweete friend) from hencefoorth (having my constancie thus warranted) when most I lowre, contrary my lookes with smiling thoughtes. And thus, till more fortunate time do perfect our wilhed desires, thy loving mystresse wisheth thee well to fare.

Giletta de Bologna.

When good Giletta had thus ended her letters, for that shee durst not trust Rosina, her wayting woman, with the deliverie of them, whom she knewe to be too well affected towardes Frizaldo to worke him such an injurie, shee deter-

mined to be the embassadour her felfe : to accomplish which devise shee made an apple hollowe, wherein shee bestowed this letter, which shee closed so cunningly, that none by the outward show could perceive the inward charge thereof. But, oh the force of jelosie ! Frizaldo, for that he could not alwayes be present to eye Gilettas behaviour, wonne her waytinge woman to watch her so narrowly as shee might bee able to yeeld accompt of all her doinges. This trayterous mayde to her mystreffe so trustily performed his request, as, although Giletta practised this devise in her secret closet, yet through the cranell of a wall, shee had notice thereof ; so that the night following shee came to the fingering of this apple, and, finding these loving lines in the body thereof, shee forthwith went to Frizaldo, to whom shee delivered both the letter and apple. But he, that foreknew Gilettas love towards Rinaldo, was rather glad then sadde of these newes ; for by this meanes he spyde occasion presently to overthrowe Rinaldo with despaire. To further which villanous trechery, as neere as he could he counterfeited Gilettas hand, and then, in steede of her courteous lines (in her name) hee wrote this uncomfortable letter :

A trecherous
part.

Rinaldo, thy dissemblyng hath wrought my displeasure ; and although I will not shew how, nor wherein, thou art unjust, yet know thou I know so well thy villanies, as no excuse shall remove mee from revenge. And if my unpleasaunt lookes any way offende thee, assure thy felfe my heart tenne times more abhorreth thee : thereof let this my hand writing be a witnes, which I my felfe deliver to this ende, that thou mayst at once end both thy hope and unregarded sute : by her that hates the more then shee loves herselfe,

Giletta de Bologna.

When Frizaldo had made an ende of this letter, hee bestowed it in the apple, and wild Rosina to laye the same where shee found it: the next day hee brought Giletta, where of force shee must see her loving Rinaldo, and of purpose seemed carelesse of her behaviour, that she might have opportunitie to salute her sorrowful servaunt. Poore Giletta, unacquainted with this treacherie, simplie delivered Rinaldo the apple, saying, the vertue in the fruite was of force to end his sorrowes. Herewith shee hastened after Frizaldo, without either answere or thanks at her servaunts hands, who, receyving this courtesie beyond all hope, as one amazed at so souldaine a joy, it was longe ere hee tasted this apple, and finding a letter inclosed therein, I can hardly report the one halfe of his delight; but this I am assured, for his faire mystrisse sake he a hundred times kist both the seale and superscription, before he adventured to take knowledge of the hidden message therein: but when he ripped it open, and found the forecited newes, alas, poore man! his late sweete motions so increased his fowre passions, that if it were possible for anye to taste more miseries, his fare exceeded the torments of hell.

Ah God! (quoth hee) how maye it so sweete a face should be matcht with so cruel a hart, such heavenly lookes with such hellish thoughts, so faire a creature with so foule conditions, and so modest a countenance with so mercilesse a minde? O Giletta! what meanest thou so to ecclipse thy honour, darken thy vertue, and spoile thy wonted report of pitie, by murdering of thy faithfull friend? Hadst thou no feare of infamie? No thought of former vow? Might not remorse of conscience withdrawe thee from disloyaltie? Madest thou no more accompte of love then like unto a

garment, at thy pleasure to put off and on? Couldst thou doe Rinaldo such injurie as to let another devoure the fruites of his toyle? Wouldst thou suffer Frizaldo to reape the crop of love that Rinaldo sowed with fighes, weeded with faith, did nourish with teares, and ripened with continual service? Suppose I admitt the force of thy second love, in excuse of all these wronges, with what face couldst thou triumphe in my miseries? Yea, desire my death, that loved thee so deare? Trust mee, cruell Giletta, if thine owne writing had not been witnesse, I would never have thought thee inconstant, nor had not thine own hands delivered the instrument of my destruction, I would hardly have credited thy letters; but on so certaine a prooffe, in vayne it were to hope. Ah, God! how rightly didst thou hit my fortune, when as thou saidst, thy apple would ease my sorrowes: in deed I found it in my death, and only death must cure my grief. And sith so subtilly thou prophesiedst my destruction, since it agreeth with thy wil, thy wretched desire shal forthwith be wrought. In this desperate mynde Rinaldo hasted unto the river of Poo, where, by the shore side, he sawe a simple man, to whome he delivered a scroll wherein was written,

*Giletta, false of faith, Rinaldo nipt so nye,
That, lo! he chose, before his time in streames of Poo to dy.*

Whiche verses he requested the poore man to deliver at the Lorde de Bolognas castile to maistresse Giletta, and then, without using any other speache, he leapt into the river. The poore man, halfe amazed at this wilful acte, forthwith hasted unto the Lorde de Bolognas castle, where,

after he had delivered the writing to Giletta, he shewed for certaintie he saw Rinaldo drowne him self. The newes was unwelcome unto everie hearer (save only to Frizaldo, that trayned him into this mischiefe), but especially to Giletta this tydings was too too grievous: she weapt, she waylde, she blamed her and his unlucky fortune, Frizaldos jealousie, her friendes untowardnesse, and chiefly her owne nyceness, as instruments of Rinaldos lamentable destinie: infomuch as neither shew of pleasure, companie of acquaintance, or perswasion of friendes, could move her unto any comfort.

Well, leave we sorrowfull Giletta, continually bemoaning the death of her best beloved fervaunt, and turne we to Rinaldo, who, after he had a while felt the furie of the floudes, was wearie of dying, so that for life he laboured unto the shoare; which happily recovered, he felt his stomacke at that instant rather overcharged with water then love; yet, for that by sight of his fowre-sweete maistresse he would not renew his sorrowes, nor that he coulde brooke in the court to be frumpt and flouted at, he consented, in a Forrest neare adjoyning unto this river, in miserie to consume the residue of his life. And abasing his mind unto the condition of his distresse, he was content to take a hollow cave for his house and herbour, the bare ground both for his bed and bedding, for companions to make choice of wild beastes, to bemoane his fortunes unto the wilde Forrests, to make the night raven his clocke, his harmonie of hellishe noise of monsters, and his foode the fruits of the earthe. O, strange effectes of love! that could vaile his mynde to vouchsafe these miseries, that lately held at will, almost what he could wish. But leave I now to write of love his force (whom no

man hitherto could either truly define or describe), and turne againe to poore Rinaldos hard estate, who, roming in the wilde forrestes for foode, espied an apple tree, the fruit wherof put him in remembrance of the apple Giletta delivered him, wherein he found a letter that forst him to this penance ; the sight wherof with sorrow not only flaked his hunger, but moved him to such impatience that, in despaire and despight of the fruite, upon the tree he carved this invention :

O ! needlesse fruit (of sinne the meane at first)
Thou forcedst Eve, and Adam didst entice,
To byte their bale, for which the earth was curst,
And headlong they from vertue fell to vice :
Thou wert the baite that Paris gave the dame,
Who in reward, set stately Troy aflame.

Thou didst convey the loving write, that woode
Dianas nymphe, from chaste to foule desire.
By thee too soone I (wretched) understoode
Gilettas scorne, that chaung'd her love to yre ;
And not content, but when my woes were dead,
With former cares thou combrest fresh my head.

O, envious fruit ! in whom few vertues are,
Thy shew is all ; but who so on thee feedes
Shall hardly finde thee helpe, but health impaire :
Then, sith to man such plagues thy beauty breedes,
Would God thy guilt upon each tree
Ingraven were, for every eye to see !

Roberto Rinaldo.

Rinaldo, thus freshly entered into the consideration of his former love, likewise felt his former unquietnesse of mynd : faine would he have found out some little sparke of hope, but out, alas ! the fowre letter his sweete maistresse delivered, together with her hatefull shewe against him, and her loving zeale towards Frizaldo, so hugely increased his distrust, as by no means he could away with hope : in so much (quoth he) O cowardly wretch ! why dost thou not by death at once dispatch thy sorrowes, rather then to die a thousand deaths proroging a lothed life ? canst thou brooke continual bondage, when with one blow thou maist rid thy wretchednesse ? Set feare aside, use force upon thy selfe : thou hast lived an exile too long, since thou seest no hope of attonement at home, nor feelest quietnesse abroad. In this desperate passion, Rinaldo was determined to commit murder upon him selfe ; and yet he thought best to deferre the execution, until he might convey him selfe neare unto Gilettas lodging, that there her eyes might be witnesse of his loyaltie and her owne crueltie. To hasten which follie, the next night he tooke his journey towards Bologna castle, and by the way he devised this petition.

Even with the bloud that issues from his hart,
Rinaldo (wretch) this forrie boune doth crave ;
There may be graven (by some continuing arte)
These woful words upon his timelesse grave :
Loe ! here he lies that reaped hate for love,
Which hard exchaunge to flea him selfe did move.

These verses Rinaldo determined to write with bloud that issued from his deadly wound, and comming unto the

place of his desired rest, he drew his dagger in mind to finish his sorowes. But finding his enterprise (by reason of the dead time of night) unlikely to be troubled, before he executed this tragedie he weakely wrested forth this heauie farewell.

Oh God! (quoth he) that the grones proceeding from my gored hart might now awake Giletta, that she might see the use of my murdering knife; then wold my yawning breath, my bloody sighs, and deadly gaspes, no doubt bedew her cheekes, whiche hitherto my intollerable miseries with ruthful teares could never wet: so should she knowe my escaped dangers were but lightening joyes for to inlarge my sorowes: so might she see the unfained confirmation of my loyaltie accuse her of inconstancie: so seeing so unnaturall a tragedie executed (by the dome of her scorn) upon her faultlesse seruant, remorse might happily move her to repentaunce, and pittie winne her from her wavering fancies. But (oh!) I tyre time with too needelesse a tale: she quietly sleepest to whom I thus sorrowfully talke. Farewel, Giletta, farewell. These naked wals (besprent with blood) shal shortly bewray my mone: my breathlesse corps shal witnesse my constancie, and purchase (I trust) so much pitie as (notwithstanding my carelesse provision) to be bestowed in some forgetlesse tumb. I can not stay thy answer, and therefore I leave it to thy curtesie. Come, wished death! now use thy force: my will is made; the time and place fitteth my desire, my teares and sighes are already bestowed, these walles (my executors) only wanteth their hire: my waste blood I bequeath them, only to continue remembrance of my loyaltie, &c.

Good Giletta, continually lamenting the losse of her seruant

both night and day, was smally disposed to rest; in so much that leaning in her chamber window, she heard (though not perfectly) this sorowful discourse, and being moved with pitie (as Rinaldos complaint grew to an end) she used these words. Yonder mans tong, mone, and miseries, workes such fresh remembrance of my good Rinaldos destruction, as for his sake I wil apply unto his sorowes what honest comfort I can. Therewithall she prepared her selfe to learne his cause of grieve. Rinaldo, amased with this souden comfort, helde his hande from his throte till Giletta was at his elbowe; who verie modestly demaunded, both what he was, and what forst him so pitiously to complaine? Rinaldo, on this small incouragement, began now to mistrust yll measure in others; and yet to trie in whome the fault might be, he at the first both hid his name and the true cause of his grieve from Giletta. Giletta, earnestly noting the order of his talk, began now to be so distempered with the thought of Rinaldo, as she fell straight thus to beemone his hard fortunes. Ah! good Rinaldo (quoth she) whersoever thy body lies, in thought I so perfectly behold thy image, as in every mournfull tale me thinkes I heare thy tong. Woe worth thee, Frizaldo! to coole whose jelous distrust I used shewe of hate where in heart I loved; and yet, Rinaldo, thou art not blamelesse in that, when as I made thee privie to the cause of my straungnesse, thou wilfully afterwards didst drowne thy selfe. Herewith Rinaldo, to make Giletta partaker of his newe conceived joyes, could not choose but discover him self, whome when she perfecctly knewe, *And lives Rinaldo yet?* (quoth she) and therewithal, imbracing her best beloved, with very joy fell into a swoone. Rinaldo, seeing his lady and love to

Unlookte
comfort.

The womans
wit in matters
of love quicker
then the mans.

faint, spared for no kisses to fetch her againe. She being revived, and the heate of their joyes somewhat qualified, I want skill to will to shewe what desire the one had to delight the other; but this I am assured, they in such sort overwent the night, that morning willed them away ere eyther of them had thought of former sorrowes, or sought to worke for future joyes. But as it is sayde, the womans wit is more readier then the mans in practises that answereth their liking, experience here makes proove of no lesse: for when Giletta espied Rinaldo in a browne studie with debating which way they might best, easiest, and soonest perfect their unsure delightes, she comforting him with a pretie smyle, willed him to commit that charge unto her, but in any case she warned him to live a while unknowne.

Rinaldo faithfully promised to obey her direction, who, after he had given and taken a hundred loth to depart kisses, forthwith posted unto the next uncouth place, and Giletta secretly conveyed her selfe unto her chamber: who the next day forooke her mourning weedes, and with a chearefull countenance she bid her friendes *Buon giorno*; who rejoycing to see her so pretily comforted, applyed them selves unto such exercises and perswasions as they thought would best worke her contentation. Especially Frizaldo, who (after it was given out Rinaldo was drownd) was so muche of Giletta misliked, as that she could neyther abide his sight, nor would patiently heare his name: now, seeing her stormie anger somewhat appeased, by litle and litle renewed his loving suite. Giletta nowe to worke sure (bicause he should no more suspect fraude in her overmuch familiaritie) made the matter somewhat strange; and yet not so strange but that Frizaldo might picke out

incouragement to continue his bootlesse fuite. Who, refusing no advantage, charged her, and double charged her, with importunate persuasions: she, at every assault, seemed somewhat to relent; yea, in the end, she was content patiently to heare his request, and if she chaunced to crosse him with froward language, she wold comfort him with some fained good looke. Gilettaes father, seeing some likely-hood of the match he long desired, I meane betweene Frizaldo and Giletta his daughter, furthered Frizaldos desire in what he could, in so much as coveting a speedy dispatche, he one day injoynd his daughter to give him a direct answere, off or on. Giletta modestly answered, the promise she made Rinaldo was such a corsie to her conscience, through the feare of infamie, as althogh she had sufficiently tried (and by trying liked) Frizaldos honest and faithfull love, yet she feared to give hir willing consent to that she hartily wished. Why, quoth her father, your promise died with Rinaldo; and though he desperately dispatcht his life, neither law of God, nor nature, can forbid you marriage: and to make you the more willing to that I wish, there shalbe proclamation made, that if Rinaldo within one moneth come in, and make clame to Giletta, he should be indifferent heard; if not, Frizaldo to have her as his lawful wife: by this means (quoth he) the clattering tongs that thou fearest (would note thee of inconstancie), well persuaded of his death by reason of his absence, will sure be staid.

Giletta, thus proffered what she had thought to have requested, set nicenesse aside, and, fayning her fathers persuasions to have conquered her, upon this condition yealded to marrie Frizaldo. The Lord de Bologna made no delay, but presently, upon this consent, assured Frizaldo

to his daughter Giletta, and caused proclamation to be made. This newes wrought joy on all sides. Rinaldo laught to heare this proclamation, for that he knew how to provide sowe sauce for Frizaldos sweet delights: Giletta smilde to see how wilelily she had won her father's consent to have Rinaldo, who she knew was ready to make clame. Gilettas frends rejoyced to see her sorowes appeased; but Frizaldo above the rest triumphed in shew: he made no account of the proviso in his assurance; for why, he thought a dround man wold hardly clame his right. The kind intertainment of his maistresse so laded him with joy, as that he bad jealouzie go trudge, distrust adieu, and al other hinderances avaunt: one while he invites his friends, another while he makes choice of martiall c[h]alengers and champions, for justing, turne, barriers, &c. Now he consults with carpet knights about curious masks, and other delightful shewes: anon he runs unto the tailers, to see his apparell made of the straungest and costliest fashion. Thus was he occupied in provision of braverie against his marriage day; he had no thought how Rinaldo would be avenged of his trecherie, overthrow him in combat, weare his weedes, marrie his wife, and use his provision of plesure for the honor of his own wedding: he wold not see secret hate, that lay hid in Gilettas loving lookes as the snake lurkes in the sweet grasse: his blinde affection made him forget the villanie he had offered Rinaldo, so that pricke of conscience could move him to no repentance. For, having reacht the height of his desires, he made her the instrument of his destruction, by whose dishonest service he attained this shew of preferment; I mean Rosina, Gilettas waiting woman: who, seeing the preparation for her maistres marriage, began to loure on Frizaldo. That reason was, at such time as he was out of Gilettas favor

to currie friendship with her, he tolde this damsel, in respect of her curtesies, and in despight of her maistres injuries, he would marrie her: which faire promise, thus foully falsed, might very wel force the poore wench to frowne. Which Frizaldo seeing, likewise saw without wise foresight a hindrance to his desires; and devising how to repaire this breach of amitie, he called to mind what smal trust was in a womans secrecie, and waying what mischief he had executed to compasse his loving affaires, now to perfect the successe he long looked for, he concluded (in acquitall of the poore wenchs courtesies) to shorten her life.

O, wretch! spoyled of pitie, rest of humanitie, catyfe more cruell then any tygre! howe couldest thou professe to love, with so bloudy a mynde, especially to acquite her with such crueltye, that spoyled her credit to do their courtesie? But why weare I time to wonder at thy unnaturall villanies, which spendst thy life without thought of vertue, and diedst without shewe of repentance? And nowe againe, unto this tyrant Frizaldos actions: with a friendly countenaunce, he came unto Rosina, and after his courteous salutations, he bayted his poysoned enterprise with this sweete persuation. Sweete wench, quoth he, thou seest a great preparation (supposed) for a marriage betweene thy maistresse and me; if which were true, in fayth I should do thee too too much wrong, to whome I am in conscience betrothed. But for that thou maist now find performance of that in deeds, that hitherto I promised in words, I give thee to wit my intent. Thou very well knowest my faithful love once towardes Giletta, her smal regard of me, my suite, her scorne, yea her crosse answering of all my amorous actions; so that by necessitie enforced, I shund her sight that nothing esteemed my fer-

Faire wordes
makes fooles
faine.

vice, dayly pleaded with teares, and solicited with sighes, which uncurteous (nay cruel) ufage (as thou knowest full wel) foudenly changed my love to hate, so that, continuing (or rather increasing) my malice, I have hitherto fought how to be avenged. And, lo! a happie opportunitie: her coyneffe is come downe, and nowe she is content to love the man that she so highly hated; yea, to allure him with friendly lookes, whose teares sometimes could purchase no ruth. I meane my selfe, she is thus affected to; who (in truth) rather seekes to be revenged of her former crueltie then to reward her present courtesie. And to use avenge more currantly, upon this newe reconcilment, I shadowed my displeasure with the shew of wonted kindnesse, of purpose, when she thought her selfe most assured, then to give her the slip, and now the (supposed) wedding day drawes neare, but her delight farre enough off. Nowe, nowe, sweete wench, the accomplishment of my promise and thy comfort approacheth; it is thou shalt injoy the benefite of this preparation. Frizaldo meanes to marrie none but Rosina, whome he will shortly espouse. Wherefore (quoth he) to worke both secretly and safely in this matter, I meane, the night before my (supposed) marriage with Giletta, to convey thee to my house, and the next morning to make thee my wife.

This currant tale not a little pleased Rosina: she thought all was gold that glittered; she never remembered howe the poysoned hooke lay wrapt in pleasant bayte, howe the crocodile obtaines her pray with pitifull teares, nor how subtil devises are (for the most) compassed with sugred wordes: she never dreaded insuing danger, but presently consented to what Frizaldo should demaund; yea

she thought every day a yere, untill she had overtaken this appointed houre. At which time, according unto promise, Frizaldo, with two other ruffens to whom he had delivered his mynd, repayred to this mistrustlesse mayde, whome Frizaldo wild quickly to prepare her selfe to ryde with those his men unto his house, and he him selfe would make what speede he might after. She (that was ready an houre before Frizaldo came) made answere she was in a readinesse to perfourme his pleasure, and so with more haste then good successe, away she packs. But so soone as these two ruffens had her in the Forrest (to sowre her sweete conceites) they made her acquainted with Frizaldos commaundment.

It was his pleasure she shuld be flaine, whose dome they promist, and would obey, and execute; and therefore they willed her to use her prayers, for no perswasions might purchase grace. The poore wench, thus beset with naked swordes, and seeing (by their stearne countenances) how those traytors were spoyled of pitie, began very lamentably to cry and scrike out; which these gracelesse varlets hearing, commaunded her foorthwith to forsake her overloude clamors, and fall (if she woulde) quietly to her prayers: if not, they would abridge her short time of repentance. Good soule, she seeing them so furiously bent, became foorthwith silent, and only to proroge her life (I thinke) with small devotion she fel a praying; for when she fetled her self to most paciencie, she would soudenly exclame of Frizaldos tirannie. Rinaldo, who (since his owne wilful exile) lived in this Forrest, by fortune hearde Rosinaes pitious complaint, and being well armed, hastened to learne the cause of so great an outcrie; who, espying a gentlewoman upon her knees between two ruffens, that with naked swordes

A unlooked
for rescue.

were readie to shorten her life, fet spurres unto his horse for her more speedie rescue. The varlets, seeing an armed knight make towards them (without damaging the gentlewoman) forthwith fled to save them selves. Rosina, thus happily preserved, through very joy fell into an extasie: but being both revived and comforted by Rinaldo, Rinaldo presently perceived how that he had wrought this fastie unto Gilettas waiting woman; and greatly wondering at the rarenesse of the chaunce, was earnest to knowe what led her to this misfortune: she not knowing (by reason he was armed) that whom she had so often wronged to pleasure Frizaldo was the man that saved her life which Frizaldo traiterously fought, from the first to the last layde open all Frizaldos trecherie, and further she sayde that to morrowe he should espouse good Giletta. Nay, quoth Rinaldo, I myself hope to hinder that match, and to morrowe (quoth he) we wil both go to Bologna castle: in the meane while he prayed her to rest contented with his intertainment.

This long lookt for morrowe morning is now at length come, and yet not so fortunate as to some wished for, but to him to whome it was most daungerous it was best welcome; I meane to Frizaldo, who (having a lightening delight against his souden destruction) very early gets him up, bravely arrayes him selfe, and accompanied with divers gay gallants, with delicat musicke awakens Giletta. Giletta, that lived assured of Rinaldos challenge, seemed greatly contented with Frizaldos readinesse, and with what speede she might, she decked her self as bravely as she could. The bridegrome and the bride being readie, the lord of the castle, with the lady his wife, accompanied with other their friends (with what honor they could) accompa-

nied them both to wards the church. But loe! (by the way) an unlookt for let: in viewe of the whole companie, there posted towards them a knight, accompanied with one only gentlewoman. The knight (well mounted upon a blacke horſe) was armed all in blacke armour, ſave upon the left ſide, about his hearts defence, there was graven a white turtle dove, with this poeſie, *Once choſe, and never chaunge*: the ſtrangneſſe of which ſight enforſt them to ſtay to know the knights errant; who, being arrived among them, his gentlewoman was ſtraight waies knowne, which ſtraunge adventure greatly increaſt their wonder, and more greatly Frizaldos feare. Well, this gentlewoman upon her knees requested both pardon and reſpyt to ſpeake; whiche graunted, ſhe made firſt report of the love betweene Rinaldo and Giletta; then of Frizaldos liking and jealous diſtruſt; further how Giletta fained to fancie him and to forſake Rinaldo, which deviſe ſhe wrote in a letter, and incloſed it in an aple, thinking by the delivery therof to acquaint Rinaldo with her mind. But (quoth ſhe) this aple came to my unhappie fingring, the which I delivered to Frizaldo, who toke out the comfortable, and counterfetted in Giletta's name a cruel, letter, the which he wrapt in the aple, and wild me to beſtow the ſame where I found it: the day folowing, Frizaido allured Giletta wher of force ſhe ſhuld ſee Rinaldo, who delivered Rinaldo this aple. Rinaldo, reading the counterfetted letter, deſperatly drowned him ſelfe; which ill newes ſo diſcomforted Giletta, as ſhe repined at all the instruments of his ill fortune, eſpecially at Frizaldo, whoſe name ſhe could not abide. Frizaldo, ſeeing his ſuits ſo ſmally regarded, with ſhew of malice, in deſpight of her (as he ſaide) promiſt me marriage. Since

Giletta, won from this displeasure Frizaldo to faire words, promist now to perform that in deed that hitherto he promist in worde, I meane under the colour of marriage, won me to go with two ruffens to his house, who by Frizaldos appointment, in a forrest not far off were readie to murther me, had not this knight in happie time recovered me. I nowe have said, use your pleasure, and if you please pardon me.

This straunge discourse made them all secretly to grudge at Frizaldo; but Giletta, being perplexed both with malice and feare, with malice against Frizaldo for his too apparent trecherie, with feare for Rinaldos absence, who she little thought to be the instrument of this discovery, Frizaldo perceived (by the alteration of countenances) what harts were won from him by Rosinaes too true a tale; and although he found him selfe guiltie, yet he began to cleare him self with this shamelesse answere.

This strumpet (quoth he), won by some ruffenly companion that repineth at my good fortune, or thinketh by this meanes to be avenged for Rinaldos desperate and foolish end, without shame in her selfe, thus shamefully slandereth me. But for that wordes will hardly quench the suspicion that her infamous tale hath fired, I wil presently in combat prove my innocencie, and (I trust) discover her trecherie, if any dare mainteine her untrue sayings true. Frizaldo had scarcely concluded his challenge, ere Rinaldo thus replied. Notorious varlet (spoiled of all humanitie) I am he that wil mainteine her sayings true, and in revenge of thy trecherie will (I trust) soone seperate thy condemned foule (without speedie repentance) from thy carren body. Goe, arme thy selfe, I attend thy coming. Infamous ruffen!

wilt thou? (quoth Frizaldo), and counterfetting (through necessitie) furie in steade of feare, foorthwith he went to arme him selfe. The rest of the companie, rather desirous to see an end of this accusation then the solemnising of the marriage, attended Frizaldos return, who sone came very richly armed into the field. The knights now sweare that eyther quarrell is just, and at the trumpets sound so fiercely incountreth other, that both horse and men fall thundering to the earth. Frizaldo trusting in his force, Rinaldo both in his force and honest quarell, eyther quickly recovereth him self, and (forsaking their shivered speares) with arming blade freshly falles a hewing at others sconce. The knights thus furiously fighting, the standers by pray as they are affected; the indifferent, victory unto the innocent; Rinaldos friends, unto the unknowne knight; but Giletta, above the rest, wisheth Frizaldos overthrowe, whome she knowes to be faultie in the quarell. Still they fight, and yet the victorie doubtfull: one while Rinaldo hath the best, and straight a crosse blowe makes him lose his advauntage. Remorse of conscience nothing weakeneth Frizaldo, but Rinaldos honest cause doubleth his strength, so that the longer he fought the fearcer he was; and yet Frizaldo valiantly mainteines his dishonest quarrell. But what doth might availe when God assistes the right? Frizaldo, for all his force, in the end beganne to faint; which Rinaldo espying, and eying his ladies beautie, assailed him with such furie that ere long he sent him dead to the earth.

The battell thus fortunately won, Rinaldo unarmes him self, and clames Giletta as his wife: the people at the sight of Rinaldo shoke the earth with clamors of joy. Giletta (that lately wondered at Rinaldos absence) now charged

her father with his promise: the Lorde de Bologna, with the rest of his friends, agreed Rinaldo and Giletta should forthwith be married. The courtly companie that came to honor Frizaldos marriage, had his dishonest actions in such disdain, as now they would not vouchsafe to see him honestly buried. But, with all their provision of braverie, on Rinaldo they willingly attended; glad was he that could with any curtesie present him. The marriage rites solemnly pronounced, these faithfull lovers repaired to Bologna castle, where they were welcomed with what pleasure might be had; yea, to conclude, for to worke satisfaction for their long miseries, there wanted nothing that coyne, cunning, or credit might compasse. And thus after fortune had long threatned the shipwracke of their delightes, their constancie conducted them to the port of their wished desires.

El fine fa el tutto.

EPILOGUS.

Loe! here the fruits of lust and lawlesse love,
Loe! here their faults that vale to either vice ;
Loe! ladyes, here their falles (for your behove)
Whose wanton willes sets light by found advice.
Here lords may learn with noble dames to match ;
For dunghill kyte from kinde wil never flye :
The vessell long will of the liquor smatch,
Wherewith at first the same we taste or trie.
Here Cressids life ; her lucke, and lothsome end,
Their fortunes paint that Cressids heires are :
Her fall doth will all wantons to amend ;
Their lightning joyes are joynd with yeres of care.
Here youths, that see a strumpets angrie moode,
May haply feare to execute her hate.
Their hard luckes heere, that purchase love with bloud,
Are warnings meete for such as fowe debate ;
And to be shorth, the fowre in sweetest love
Doth prove him blest that least therof doth prove.

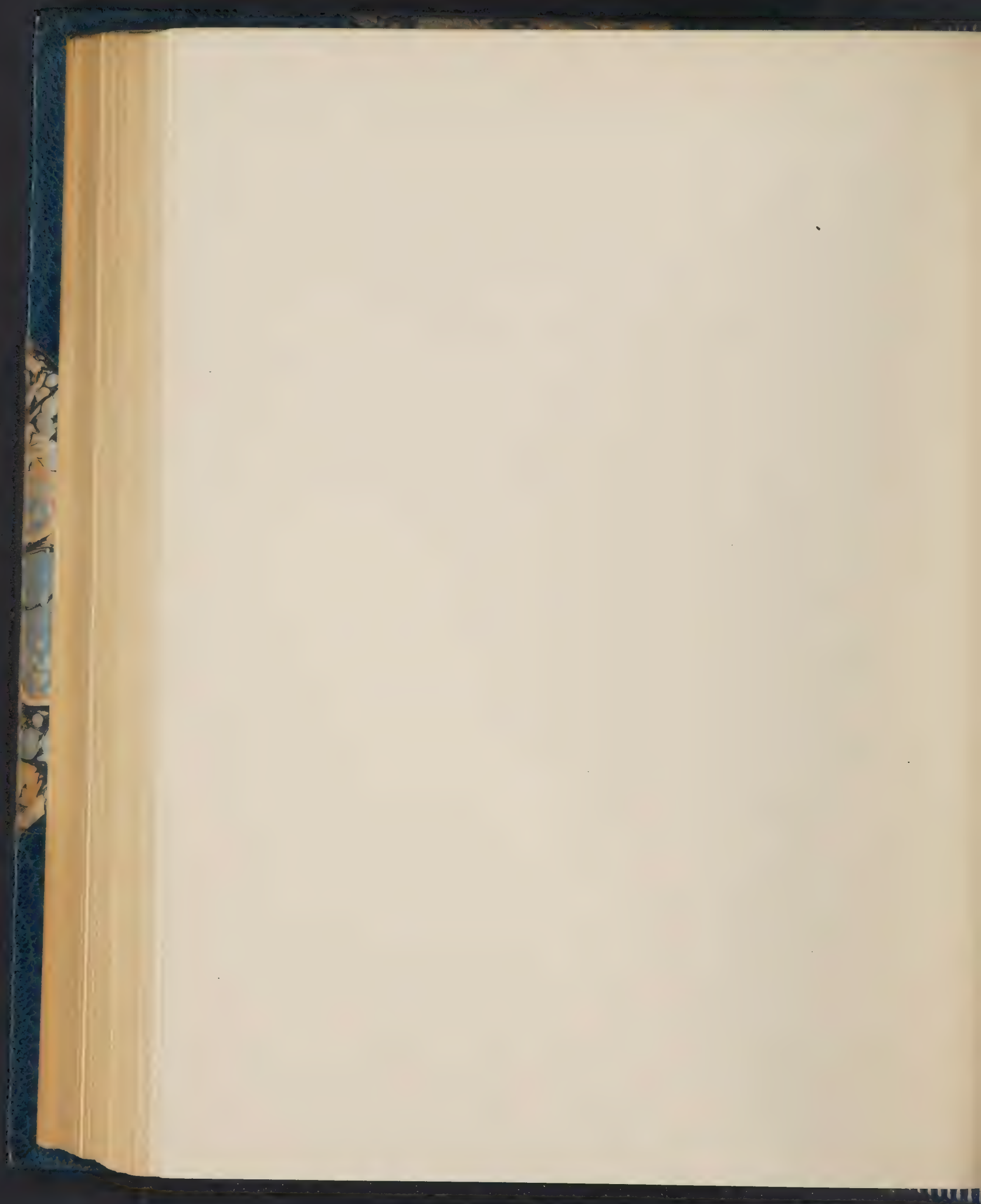
Vide the fall
of the C. of
Celant, fol.
16. a.

Cressids com-
plaint, fo.
22. a.
Vide C. of
Celant, fo. 2. a.

Vide C. of
Celant, fo. 7. b.

Vide Frizaldo,
fol. 45.

Formæ nulla fides.



THE GARDEN OF UN-
thriftinesse, wherein is reported

the dolorous discourse of Dom

Diego, a Spaniard, together
with his triumphe.

Wherein are divers other flowers
(or fancies) of honest love. Being the in-
ventions and collection of *George*
Whetstone, Gent.

Formæ nulla fides.

THE ARGUMENT.

Dom Diego, a Spaniard, falling in love with faire Genevora, was, in the prime of his fancies, with like love by Genevora friendly acquainted. Afterwards Genevora (else where fancying) had Dom Diego in such disdaine, as still she crost both his suite and service with scorne. Dom Diego, seeing an impossibilitie of favour, exiled him selfe both from courte and companie, and vowed to live and die in the Pyren mountains, unless Genevora would both remove her misliking, and friendly fetch him home againe : who solemnely persevering in this senselesse vowe, you may suppose among the Pyren hilles to wrest foorth this following complaint of his wretchednesse.

DOM DIEGO HIS

dolorous discourse.

—o—

I (wretched) weary am of toile; good death, delay my paine:
My words in waft, my works are loft, my wifhes are in vaine.
I ferve with faith, my hire is fraud, I love and reape but
hate,
And yet this woe doth wrong me moft; I mourne without a
mate.

For if one drop of hope were feene, though dride with fcorne
in fight,
I might with pyning Tantale joyne, who fterves in fweete
delight:
Or if I could but halfe the hill roule up the tumbling ftone,
I had a mate of Sifyphus to match with mee in mone.

But, oh! O not my hap more harde; they have a scrambling
joy,
But I no thought of fweete remorfe, my fovereigne is fo coy.
My joy in *was*, my woe in *is*, and fo is like to bee:
My fancies turne to firie fightes, alive, my death to fee.

The court, the court, where pleasure lives, with paine in-
creaft my care,
Eche bliffe feemde bale, eche gleame of grace did mift
my joyes with fcare.

Eche flow of sport my forrowes moude, eche pleasure
made me plaine,
Yet there I preast to feede on sight, digesting dire dis-
daine.

Were love not blinde, this life were straunge for one to love
his foe ;
More straunge to haunt a place of harme, but most to joy
in woe :
But (oh !) who feeles his aukeward fittes, and sucks the
fweete in fowre,
Shall bide a yeare of dole with ease, to feele one lightning
houre.

Such life I lykt, til fogge of scorne did rise to dampe my
joyes,
Till secreet fighes wrought open scoffes, till floutes did quite
my joye ;
Untill the colours which I wore my secrete mourning
wrayde,
Till dauntes of friendes, till frumpes of foes, my feeble hope
dismayde.

And till her bloudie hate was feene of every beetell fight,
Till then I never shronke, but fought with zeale to quenche
her spight ;
But then (quoth I) Dom Diego, wretch, bid court, not care,
adue,
Some unkouth haunt thy fortune seemes, thy harmes alone
to rue.

Thou gav'st thy woord, to die her love let word in worke
agree :

Her checking chaunge, her scorne for faith, is no excuse
for thee.

A hermits life, befeemes thy lucke; go haunt the Pyren hills:
To touch the foode wee may not taste increaseth hungry wills.

Therwith I vow'de in defart houltes alone to rue my harme,
Where fretting sighes doth serve for fire my frosen flesh to
warme :

My foode is apples, hawes, and heepes, such fruites as feede
a beast ;

Wilde monsters are companions mine, in hollow caves I rest.

A crabtree staffe my furest steede my sterved legges to ease :
My thoughts new wounds increaseth stil, when cares I would
appease.

The watchfull clocke, the warning bell, the harmonie I heare,
Is dreadfull noyes of dreadleffe beastes, of whom I live in
feare.

My studie is to way and waile that fortune thus doth lowre,
Wher wealth by want, once love by scorne, my sweete by
present sowre.

Where fethers flue about my helme, a willowe wreath to
weare,

My weedes of worth by cote of leaves, sharpe flowes for
deintie fare.

My stately home, by hard exile, delight, by wythred woe,
Doth force (God wott) my wasted teares through grieve a
fresh to flowe.

My lute, that fometime lent me ease, hath neither frett nor
stringe ;

My fugged voice, with howling hoarst, forbids mee now to
finge.

My penne are worne, my incke is done, my paper all is writ,
Yet halfe my passions and my paine unpainted are as yet,
So that for onely exercife, in trees and marble stone,
My griefe to ease, I forced now, do grave my wretched mone.

Live longe in blisse, thou loftie beeche, wherein this vow is
writt,

No luring friend, nor lowring foe, *Genevras faith shall flitt.*
To witnes now her foule untruth, Dom Diego writes belowe,
Her vowed faith from knowen friend is rest by fawning foe.

But chiefe of all, thou facred stone, remaine thou found and
safe,

Continue thou these letters fresh, which are my epitaphe :
Hard by this rough and ragged stone Dom Diego (wretched)
lies,

Genevras hate exiled him, yet loving her hee dies.

This homely tumb is all my helpe to bring my death to
light,

This must record my faithfull love, and shew my ladies spight.
In time I trust some forrest Pan, or wandring pilgrime may,
Peruse my woes, and to my sweete this fowre message wray.

To save my faithfull boone unbroke, to show my service just,
My soveraignes scorne with face of faith, her treason cloakt
with trust,

*Me, wretched Dom Diego, forst before my time to die :
My bones unburied by this tumbel makes poofe it is no lie.*

And now, good death, with speede divorce my foule from
lothed life ;

My joyes are worne, my pleasures past, my peace is chaung'd
to strife :

I fee no meane of quiet rest, but onely death by thee,
Then spare them, death, whom pleasure hauntes, and use
thy force on me.

Dom Diego having for the space of 22 monethes thus lived an exiled life, onely accompanied with sorrow, wretchednes and miserie, which comfortlesse companions no one houre forooke him, it chaunced that Dom Roderico (a speciall friend of his) had occasion to travel into Gascoine ; and as hee journeyed (in the desart Forrest, where this wretched lover was made free citizen) he mist his way : in the end finding out Dom Diegos homely caben, of whom he demaunded the way to Barcelone, and having his answer, as he departed hee espied in a corner of his cotage two faire faddles : uppon the one of them was ingraven this poesie in Spanish,

Que brantare la fe es causamuy fea.

To violate faith is a thing detestable.

Dom Roderico, reading this poesie, called to remembrance how that his friend Dom Diego, in all his devises, used the same ; and, to be short, he so handled the matter, as the hermite, whom hee knewe not (so was hee over-

growne with haire, and worne with woe) confessed himselfe to be Dom Diego, his friend, and, taking him a fide, hee delivered the whole cause of his exile. Dom Roderico, seeing this foster lovers miserable estate, vowed (with what possible speede hee could) to worke his remedie, who (for more haste) forooke his journey, and returned home unto his owne castle. At his comming home (making no semblance of his knowledg) hee roade to the place where fayre Genevora with her mother sojourned, of purpose to learne what new gallant had wooed her; and finding him to bee a younge gentleman of Biskaye, who shortly after (by her owne consent) was minded to steale her away, Dom Roderico so cunningly coyned with Genevoras page (who wholly knew his mystresse secretes) that he certainly learned the night of these lovers departure. The same night, accompanied with ix or x gentlemen his companions and friends, he laye in waite for this Biskayne lover and his lady, who (about x or a xi of the clocke, only accompanied with two or three gentlemen his companions) came merely on their way. Roderico, so soone as he saw the instrument of Dom Diegos miserie, set spurres unto his horse, and, with speare in rest, so rudely welcomed this Biskayne, that, for all his coate of plate, he pearst through both his sides. The souldiers of this amorous captaine, seeing their maister thus unfortunately flaine, and waying their unable force to incounter with Dom Rodericos company, saved themselves by flight, and left woofull Genevora to shift for her selfe: on whom Rodericos fervauntes foudainly seased, and, blinding her with a scarfe, with speed conveyd her where wretched Dom Diego lived. Dom Diego, somewhat comforted with the sight of his sweete mystresse, began amaine to crave recom-

pence for his faithful service. Genevora, so soone as she saw Dom Diego, and knew that syr Roderico for his cause had murthered her minion, answered him (and exclaimed on them both) with what opprobrious speech she coulde; yea, the more they perswaded her with friendly requestes, the more perverse was her refusal. Dom Diego, thus seeing an impossibilitie of favour, with inward sorrow fel into a swoon. Dom Roderico, seeing the distresse of his deare friend, and the continuance, or rather increasing, of Genevoras disdain, commaunded presently her throte to be cut. Dom Diego, halfe revived, seeing one redie to execute this judgement, profered what reskue he could. Oh, good Roderico! stay, (quoth hee): I allow of thy honest zeale, yet attribute my wretchednes to fortune, not her fault. Wherefore, for the love thou bearest to mee, for the love I owe to her, see Genevora, without further damage, safely conveyed home. Genevora, seeing him offer reskue and crave her safe conduite, whose death her frowardnes wel nie had wrought, on the soudaine was wonne unto pitie; and, lovingly embracing Dom Diego, shee offered satisfaction for his sorrowes, and for an earnest pennie shee freely kist him. Dom Diego, late the miserablest creature living, unwares became the happiest man alive; whose matchlesse pleasures appeare in this under written triumphe.

Dom Diego his triumphe.

Who can report that never tasted bale
What difference is tweene sorrow and delite?
And who may tell a more triumphant tale
Then hee in joy that late was kept in spite?

I am the man ; in mone there was none such :
My mone is past, my mirth must be as much.

Sith fo alone I rule in throne of joy,
Of pleasures mount I weald the golden mace,
Then leave to bragge, you princes proud of Troy,
Your brayd delights by mee can have no place ;
Once beauties blisse to vaunt doth make you bould,
I have such hap, and tenne times more in hould.

And, by your leave, your ladies blemisht are :
Aske Theseus, who first lopt fayre Hellens love :
Syr Diomedes, the spoile of Troylus ware,
Suppose them true whom none could ever prove,
Your lightning joyes such lasting woes did brue,
As you may wish your fames to die with you.

But, lady mine, I wrong thee much in this,
To peize thy praise with such as livde or live ;
For natures toile some wayes disabled is,
Shee frames our forme, but can no fortune give ;
But thou wert shapt (for feare of fortunes spight)
Of precious mould by force of heavenly might.

By heavenly might, and worthie well such toyle,
Whose lively limms the Indian riches shoue :
Her haire fine gold, her front doth yvorie foyle,
Her eyes give light as diamonds there did grow ;
Her words of worth (as cause doth cause her speake)
Tweene rockes of pearle their pleasaunt passage breake.

What should I say? of truth, from top too to
These precious gems in beautie shee doth staine,
And more then that (besides the outward sho)
Their vertues shee with vauntage doth retaine;
So that of force, I (forft) must her define
Not bound to kinde, but wholly is divine.

Thrife happie man (whose love this faint did lure)
Dom Diego late, even very wretchednesse,
Now maist thou vaunt (thy vauntage is so fure)
That none alive thy pleasures halfe possesse.
Through chaunce of love do thousands chaunce on death,
But dying I, my love inlargde my breath.

The scource of woe is favourie fauce to taste,
Our sweete delights, if once delight wee feele,
The rough repulse (if battring tyre be plaste)
Amends the spoile when walles (perforce) do reele:
Of every thinge the goodnes doth increafe,
If once afore the losse did us distresse.

Sufficient prooffe my lingring love can shoe:
I tyred hope ere time my truth could trie,
Yea, desperate wretch, forworne with wreake of woe,
I left my fute and fought the meane to die;
Now winning her, whose want wrought such annoy,
On former griefes I graft my fruites of joy.

In waxe, say I, men easly grave their will,
In marble ston the woorke with paine is wonne,
But perfect once, the print remaineth still,

When waxen feales with every browfe are donne :
Even fo in love, foone wonne, as foone is lofte,
When forst through faith it bydes both fire and froft.

I can not vaunt of easie conquerd love :
I graunt with faith I foyle Genevras fcorne,
But now in peace, distrust shall never move
One jelous thought of wilde Acteons horne ;
And yet, forfooth, this feare hee liveth in,
To lose the wight with words, that words did win.

O happie love ! whose torments prove fo fweete ;
O friendly foes ! whose treason tride my trueth ;
O luckie man ! Dom Roderic to meete :
Genevra thou, thrife honord for thy ruth,
Thou, onely thou (the rest of fmall availe)
Didst fave my life, when hope and all did faile.

Now forth I throw my gauntlet for this grace,
To chalenge fuch as feeke to foile thy fame,
For fure the armes that durst my fweete imbrace,
Dares to defend the honour of her name ;
If which I faile, in prifon let me fterve,
So doome my fault, for fo I fhould deserve.

*The complaint of two lovers, restrained from their wished
desires by the displeasure of their friendes.*

We luckleffe wightes in thraldome lincked ftill,
May fit and finge our layes of deepe lament,
Whose wayward friendes, accoyde in fullen will,

Both stirre and strive to funder our consent ;
And yet (God wot) their wreaſting is in vaine :
One will ſerves both in pleaſure and in paine.

Have they deſire wee ſhould bee ſhrinde in clay,
By fundring us that loves each other fo ?
Will they not know, *Love doth no lawe obey,*
Nor how hee wrappes the wyfeſt wightes in wo ?
Thinke they that force can force our ſelves to hate ?
O, no ! in vaine, they feeke to ſowe debate.

Our plighted faith ſhall never falſed bee,
Conſtrainte of will our wiſhes cannot yoke,
Our woordes in woorkes in weale and woe agree,
Such care wee have to keepe our vowe unbroke.
O love ! through whom we live in this unreſt,
Once eaſe thy thralles that thus obey thy heſt.

Remove their wrath that woorkes to wrack our will,
That after ſtormes wee may ſome funne ſhine ſee.
The fault is thine if love betyde us yll,
Which bound our ſelves that thou mightſt ſet us free :
Wherefore vouchſafe (to ſowre our ſweete at laſt)
That gleames of grace our clowdes of woe may waſt.

*The Device of a Gentlewoman to perſuade her lover of her
conſtancie, notwithstanding her ſhow of hate, which
ſhee onely uſed to quench the jelous ſuſpicion
of her friendes.*

Sith fortune threatens to woorke our wreake of joy,
By ſowſing of our ſhip in ſeas of yre ;

Sith fullen thoughtes doth so our friends accoy,
As wayward will still wresteth our desire ;

I see no meanes more meete for our behove,
Then faile to strike till stormes be past and gone :
Our lookes must hate although our heart do love,
Yea, farre from wish our woordes must menace mone.

And yet this shew of force must needes seeme straunge
Unto us both, tweene whome was never strife ;
But let it helpe, I never meane to chaunge,
But keepe my vowe unfallsed as my life.

These simple shiftes wee filly wenches worke,
To quenche or coole our jelous friends suspect,
Whose lynxes eyes in every corner lurcke,
To trie and spoy what worketh our defect.

Thus farewell, friend ; I wilbe short with thee :
Thou knowest my love in darkest cloudes will shine,
And though in show my woordes from wookes agree,
Yet thinke I am, and ever wilbe thine.

*The rejected lover, with earnest desire, pursues the sight
of his disdainfull mystressse.*

The dampe of dole hath chooked my delight,
Sharpe frumpes, as frostes, doth nip my filly joy,
My glymering grace is darkned with despight,
Yea, fullen thoughtes my fovereigne so accoy.

As mistes of scorne still falleth on my faith,
My cleare conceiptes are clowded oore with care,
And yet my heart, aye me! no power hath
To shunne the storme that sheweth all this scare.
O straunge effectes of blinde affected love,
To haunt the yll whereby our mischiefes move!

Much like the flye that buzzeth by the flame,
And makes a sport to see the candle light,
Till she, unwares, be findged in the fame,
And so with death doth buy her fond delight.
Or as the mouse, that frikketh by the trap,
At length is mov'd to medle with the bayt,
Which weaves (God wot) the web of her mishap;
The bridge doth fal, and she is baird with weight:
Such sweete conceits inticing sorrowes breede,
To sterve with woe when joy makes fare to feede.

With which effectes I finde my fancies witcht,
I feele the flame, yet can not shun the fire.
Th' inticing trap I see on treason pitcht,
And yet the bayte to byte I have desire;
But (O yll hap!) to worke my harmes increafe
Both mischiefes want the forerecyted force;
I finde no death my sorrowes to appease,
And so my state then other misers worse:
But sure my fault, or fate, ordaines it so,
And therefore I do take in worth this woe.

*A Gentlewoman, falsely deceived with faire wordes,
forsweareth hereafter to be wonne with
flattering promises.*

Give me my worke that I may fit and fowe.
And so escape the traines of trustlesse men,
I finde too true, by witnesse of my woe,
How that faire wordes with faithles works they blen ;
Much Syren like, with sweete inticing call,
We fillie dames to witch, and wray in thrall.

O cruell friend ! whose false of faith I rue,
Thou forcest me to count all men unjust,
For if that vow or othe might make one true,
Thou usedst such as well might force to trust :
But I, betrayd by too farre trusting thee,
Wil henceforth take faire words even as they be.

I will be deafe, though thousands sue for grace,
My fight as dym, if fights in silence plead ;
Salt teares no ruth within my hart shall place,
For this shall be my song, and dayly reade,
*Poore I, that liv'd in thraldome linckt of yore,
Unbound at length, will learne to love no more.*

*The pitious complaint of Medea, forsaken of Jason, lively
bewraying the slipperie hold in sugred words.*

Amid the defart woods I rue and shew my fate,
Exild (O wretch !) from courtly joyes, bereft of princes state.
O love ! from whence these plagues proceede,
For service true is this thy meede ?

What vaileth now my skil, or fight in magicks lore?
May charmed hearbs suffice to help, or cure my festred fore?
A falve I fhapt for others smart,
My felfe to ayde I want the arte.

I made the wayward moone againft the funne to ftrive,
And gaffly ghoftes from burial graves ful oft I did revive,
To counterchaunge the fame with death,
In flowre of youth fome yealded breath.

What future harmes infude I fhewd to other wights,
And wanted skil for to prevent my prefent penfive plights.
Why did I leave my native foyle,
In forreine land to have the foyle?

Thy love (O Jafon falfe !) to winne I fparde no paine,
Although Medeas loyaltie be guerdoned with difdaine :
The goulden fleece thou wert to blame
To beare away, I wonne the fame.

But lordly lookes full oft, and flippry fervice eke,
To harmeleffe ladies have beene vowde to catch the futers
And then depart from plighted othe : [feeke,
Their fugged woordes yeelde fealdome trothe.

Where be the careleffe vowes and feareles othes thou fweare,
When I imbarckt from Colches coaft, the mountaine waves
Where is thy faith, for goulden fleece [did teare?
To crowne mee queene of famous Greece?

Might not thy traytrous mind, in lue of friendships lore,
 Forfake me (wretch!) among my friends, but that with faile
 Thou me conveydft to place unknowne, [and ore
 Amonge wyld beastes to make my mone?

Who gainft their favage kinde do worke me (wretch!) noyll,
 But seemes for to lament my cafe, or else the gods y will
 My lothed life fhould lengthened bee,
 To guerdon my iniquitie.

*The forsaken Lover pretilie nippeth his Ladies inconstancie,
 for that (as he thought) shee matched with his baser in
 accompt, whercin coulerablie he discovereth both
 their names.*

The gallie flave which ftill doth ftirre the ore,
 If haplie hee his wifhed haven espies,
 With reftleffe toile doth plie to be on shore;
 Haile in a maine, my mates! hee cheerely cries:
 But when with rough repulfe from bliffefull bay,
 Hee is inforft on feas againe to ftay,

Unhappie wight, then drownde in deepe defpaire,
 Powres forth his plaintes with flouds of brackish teares,
 With whome I now do claime a partie share,
 Which [*the rest of the line is wanting in the original*]
 Imbarkt in hope, where will the ftearne did wylde,
 Thy faith was guide which, falsed, me beguyld.

My failes of fighes, my tackle framde of trust,
 With bliffe and bale thus armed was my barke;
 Now vaunft on high, now throwne downe to the duft,

Now fraught with joy, now forst to care and carke ;
Yet quiet calme at length of friendships lore
Did seeme to guide my shivered ship to shore.

And entring in the narrowe brooke of blisse,
Triumph (quoth I) Dame Fortune hath the foyle,
The mends is made that quiteth every misse.
Adventrous boy, now reape thy fruits of toyle,
But trust to top of Fortunes fickle wheele,
Thy faith did slide, and I began to reele,

For bitter blastes of rage and deepe disdaine,
My ankers lost, my ship so fore they shooke,
That I againe was glad broad seas to gaine,
To scape the flats within thy blisselesse brooke ;
And whilste in hope I winde and weather waite,
A haggish barke I sawe to passe thy straight.

Agrievd wherat, through hate I houg the lip,
And fayd, too true that waves and women gree,
Which faves the boate, and spoiles the gallant ship ;
So ladies love lightes oft in base degree :
And then I vow'd, from which I will not swarve,
To haunt you both no more than neede shall ferve.

*The Lover attributeth his curelesse wound to chaunce,
by loving long.*

Long have I lost my libertie,
Alas ! through love (long) have I fo.
(Long) have I stoode in jeopardie,

In loving (long) through pyning woe,
 Whose constant truth long hath ben tryde,
 Though (long) his suit hath ben denyde.

My batterie (long) the brazen wall
 The cannon shot doth cleane deface,
 The longest trees in time doe fall,
 Which (long) before bad Boreas base :
 The little brooke in running (long)
 Doth turne into a river strong.

Then may it be I loving (long)
 My pyning corps by (long) delay,
 Can (long) abide the furie strong
 Of ghastly death, which (long) doth stay
 His lingring stroke to have it so,
 That loving (long) should worke my woe.

A Sonet, wherein is showne the straunge effectes of love.

In care I joy, my mirth is mov'd by mone,
 With flouds of want I weare to ebbe my wo ;
 Appayd I rest in restlesse grieve to grone,
 By fainting hope my friendly hap doth growe :
 In waves of bale I bathe in wished blisse,
 My wealth in woe, in paine my pleasure is.

But how these hang, if so she search my harme,
 These fewe suffice the same to shew (my sweete) :
 To rayse her joy my selfe I wholly arme,
 To freeze or fry as she shall deeme it meete,

I bound am free, and free I yeald her slave :
That's my delight that she desires to have.

And fith my sport doth make my soveraigne coy,
And mirth she finds to thwart my faith with frumps,
I fad, am glad my noy may force her joy,
My fowre her sweete, my dole may cleare her dumpes ;
Yea, life I wish this were to do her good,
Each day to waste a drop of guiltlesse blood.

*The lover, wearied with a number of delayes, fues unto
his Ladie for pitie, or otherwise her speedie denyall,
by death to worke a speedie dispatch of his
languishing dayes.*

If pitie may prevaile to pearse your hart with ruth,
Sweete maistres, lend your listning eare to heare your
servants truth,
Whose faith hath chose you judge, and jurie if you please ;
If not, defart shal trye this cause your deintie mynd to ease.
The whole record is writ for rasing with my teares,
My witnesse is my withered corps, ny famished with feares :
A thousand fighes, besides, in open court will sweare,
You are the faint which with my heart I honour, love, and
feare.

Disdaine that workes delayes, mistrust that moves my mone,
No witnesse hath to hinder right, but false suspect alone ;
Yet boulstred up by scorne, they scoffe my loyall love,
And kept me play with forreine frumpes, til prickt by neede
to prove,
If pitie could procure your heart my harme to rue,

I found remorfe was preast to heare the plaint before your
view.

And now, good lady, note my witnesse and my woe ;
If I deserve your love for love, give verdite yea or no,
For daunted with delayes, for hap or harme I jumpe,
And knowe you once if fullen will my faythful love doth
frumpe.

I will not languish long in curfed Cupides flame,
Death in despight shall rid me dole, and you shall beare
the blame ;

But if with soveraigne grace you may your servants state
Yeald recompence of love betimes, least liking comes too late
To coole his flaming harte, by Cupide fet on fire,
Through heate whereof a *Whetstone* colde consumes with
hote desire.

*The thought of wonted joyes doubleth the miserable
mans griefe.*

I that whose youth was lul'd in pleasures lap,
Whose wanton yeres were never chargd with care ;
Who made no flight, but reacht the pitch of hap,
And now besieg'd with griefe at unawares ;
How can my hart but bleede to thinke on this ?
My joy with *was*, my woe is joyned with *is*.

With *is* ? (Oh, yea !) and ever wil be fo :
Such hell is thought to muse on joyes forgone ;
For though content would faine appease my woe,
This myrthlesse note continues fresh my mone.
O, deare delight ! with whome I dwelt in joy,
Thy sowrest sweete my forrowes would destroy.

Destroy it would ; but, oh ! those dayes are past,
When to my wil I found dame fortune wrought :
My fancies cleare with cares are over cast,
Yet bootelesse hope will not forsake my thought,
But still proroges my griefe, that else would dye
To vaine effect when I my toyling spye.

The hap and hard fortune of a carelesse lover.

My hart on hoyh, with carelesse mind I raunging freedoms
 felde,
Blind Cupide, by areft unwares, to Beautie bad me yeald :
What ! yeald (quoth I) at Beauties becke, as Venus flave to
 serve ?
May he whome freedome alwayes fed by bondage stoupe
 to sterue ?

No, Cupide, no ; with me go tell, dame Beautie beares no
 fway,
Nor pleasure with her painted sheath can make me Cupide
 pray.
This answere made, with winged feete he tooke his flight
 away,
And did impart to Beautie straight his rest I would not bay.

With anger fraught who foorth with wild an armie should
 be had,
And captaines, having charge themselves, in armour should
 be clad ;
Her felfe she plasste in formost rank, with Pleasure in her hand,
And Lady Love elected was hygh marshall of her band.

Faire Venus in the rereward went, her sonne in ambush lay :
Thus Beautie and her warlike crue did mearch in battle ray ;
But I, poore I, which feard no force in freedoms leafe at
large,
Pursude my sport with carelesse mynd: of *Love I took no*
charge.

But all too soone I heard a found of dub, dub, in my eare,
And therewithall I sawe in fight tenne aunchents to
appeare ;
Which poudred were with pyned hartes in bloudy colours fet,
Which forst me flee to wisdomes wood, to scape Dan Cupids
net.

But (craftie) he in scoutie there lay, who first gave charge
on me,
And brought me bound to Beauties barre her prifoner for
to be :
Then stinging love enforst me pray, Dame Pleasure plead
my case,
But Beautie sayd, in vaine I fude in hope of future grace.

For martiall law foorthwith (quoth she) thy hart in bale
shall bounce.
Therwith she chargd her marshall high this sentence to
pronounce :
To bate thy pride, which wouldst not stoupe when Beautie
bent her lure,
Thy casting shall be clods of care, *saunce* hope of happie
cure.

With flouds of teares thy dazeld eyes thy fickly cheekes
shall ftaine,
And fancie with his fleating toyes shall harbour in thy
braine :
Thy heart shall poudred be with paine, thy guts with griefe
to boyle,
Thy feething fighes shall scalde thy lippes to tafte of in-
warde toyle.

Thy intrales all shall parched be with flames of fond defire,
The heavie peise of bodyes griefe thy pyned legges shall
tire.
Defpaire then was the hangman made, which doome did
Beautie please,
And I to bondage was bequeath'd, to live in little eafe.

Wherewith the gem of Venus band, unprayd of her *bon gre*,
Did beg me, wretch, at Beauties hand her prifoner for to be ;
And, after vowe of loyaltie, did let me goe at large ;
Yea, further payd my farewell fee my bondage to difcharge.
In lue whereof at her commaund my fervice, loe ! is preft,
As homage due for faved life, yea more, her flave I reft.

*The absent lover, in pawne of his constancie, fendeth his
heart to his Ladie.*

Receive, deare dame, as gage of worthy love,
This pyned hart, bepoudred all with teares,
Whofe poefie is, *No fate my faith can move* :
A rare accorde, in prime of roving yeres.
When fancie fets a thoufand thoughts on fire,

When faith is choakt with smoke of filthie change,
 When folly fumes, when flameth fond desire,
 When raging lust beyond his bounds doth range,
 When every bayte beguileth brainficke youth,
 When newe found love the olde exileth still,
 When fugged wordes are fauced with untruth,
 What straunge consent subdude my wanton wil?
 Forfooth (sweet wench) this stay thy vertue wrought,
 Thy rare report this metamorphose made;
 And lest my youth should wrong thee with fom thought,
 I use this helpe all vaine desires to vade,
 In absence, loe! to leave with thee my hart,
 That al my joy may live where thou doest rest.
 I likewise use, to free thy hidden smart,
 By secrete sighes which flies from covert brest,
 My hart to fend to joyne in ayde with thine,
 That thou mayst joy, although in paine I pyne.

*The lover, neither greatly favoured nor openly refused,
 compareth the wretchednesse of his estate unto the
 paines of hell.*

Full fearefull is the talke of Tantals grieve,
 Who hunger sterves in seas of deintie fare,
 Which falles to eb when he should find reliefe,
 And flowes againe, his hope with woes to ware;
 And how in vaine poore Sisyphus doth mone,
 To mountaine top who stil doth roll the stone.

And reaching thus the point of all his paine,
 For joy he leapes, downe falles his fruites of toyle:

Straight backe he runnes to fetch the stone againe ;
A new he rolles, but reapes his former foyle.
These be their plages which light in Sathans trap,
To wish and want, to hope and have no hap.

If then it be a hell in doubt to live,
Myselfe by prooffe can blase thereof the paine,
Who findeth grace where scorn but late did grieve,
And fead with hope, with hate is sterv'd againe ;
For all his suite who can no answere knowe,
If his sweete maistresse loves him, yea or no.

If secrete *yea* this item would but give,
I love in hart where most in shewe I hate ;
To free suspect thus straungely do I live,
To plight my fayth where scorne doth faine debate,
Unto my smart it were a sweete reliefe,
Then should my lute found notes of joy, no grieve.

Then would I laugh to see my lady pout,
And smyle when most she wroung her mouth awry ;
A signe of fayth should seeme each thwarting flout,
And jealous feare farre from my hart should fly,
Although in armes my foe did her imbrace,
If once she fleard with fancie on my face.

If open *no* would will my suites to cease,
I know the worst, and so adieu to smart ;
A hastie death my forrowes could appease,
Or languor would soone pierce my pyning hart :
Thus death were worse, how so my fortune fell,
But now, alive, I feele the paines of hell.

By gleames of grace I reape a hot reliefe,
 With storms of scorne I freefe againe with feare :
 Thus flouds of joy do fall to eb with grieve,
 And doubtfull hope desired hap doth weare :
 In favour most, I move her still to love ;
 Soft ! she replyes, I must your patience prove.

I feare to say, be plaine with yea or no,
 Least in her pettes *no* please her peevish thought,
 And scorne with all my joyes do overthrowe :
 So forward haste with backward speed were bought.
 Thus am I forst to daunce attendance still :
 God graunt for al in fine I get good will !

G. W. to the signe of the brasen bell.

And not without defart I thee a tyrant call,
 Which, save a scorne, thou madst of me to eache mishape
 art thrall :
 Thy credite is the church, O false unfriendly bell !
 When as thou foundest the marridge joyes, or ringst the
 carefull knell.
 The fouldier in distresse by the[e] alarum makes,
 And when good hap doth him advaunce, thy fides he
 rudely fhakes,
 Digressing from his state to toyle of baser chaunce.
 A thrall thou art to Hick and Steven in every morris
 daunce.
 The hinde doth decke his horse with belles to make him free ;
 The harmeleffe foole upon his cap doth make a scorne
 of thee,

Besides, to savage beastes a servile slave thou reftes,
The deintie dog in ladies lap is jueld with thy jestes.
The mounting faulcon loſt bewrayes by thee her ſtande,
By thee the hobby dares the larke before he well be mande.
Of yore this phraſe I learnd, when things ne framed well,
A capcaſe for the foole to call a cockſcomb and a bell,
Then canſt that thus arte ſcorned, beſides thy ſervile
ſtrokes,

A triumph make upon his teares, whom love ne luſt
provokes.

To like thy maiſtreſſe lookes, and love her as his life,
Who wel is bent to quite thy toyle when ſtinted is his ſtrife :
He ſure would thee advaunce from braſſe to glittering golde,
If that by pearcing peales thou wouldſt his ſorrowes once
unfolde.

Thou ſeeſt what fighes I ſende, and howe my ſuites be payd :
Thou ſeeſt my maiſtreſſe ſmyle with grace, and graunt ſhe
earſt denayd,

Thou ſeeſt me Cupids thrall, her love in league with hate ;
Thou ſeeſt my bliſſe is wayd with bale, when wrath doth
weave debate ;

Thou ſeeſt my greateſt ioyes are counterpeiſde with paine,
Thou ſeeſt my myrth is mixt with mone when jealousie
doth reigne ;

Yet when ſhe ſmyles thou ſpar'ſt my ſorrowes to deface,
And when ſhe frownes thou fearſt to ſpeake to winne her
wonted grace.

Well, ſith through feare or ſcorne thou lettſt me languish
ſtill,

I preſent now will plead for grace to winne my wiſhed will.
And firſt, good tong, prepare to tell a lovers tale,

Sound foorth my joyes, advaun't by hope, by dyre de-
spaire my bale ;

And when mistrust infectes my ladies hautie hart,
Then, scalding fighes, give you the charge to shew my
ceafeleffe smart.

But if she list to toy, and smyle with friendly face,
With easie force then, armes, assay thy maistresse to imbrace.
Then sorrowe seeke revenge upon her ruby lips,
Then wounded hart receive the cure of cruell Cupids nips.
Thus forward vaunce your selves the maister griefes to wray :
The silent man still suffers wrong, the proverbe olde doth say ;
And where adventure wants, the wishing wight ne thrives.
Faint heart, hath ben a common phraze, faire lady never
wives.

*The lover blameth his ladies mistrust, wherein is figured
the passions of an earnest lover.*

What fancie fond did force your mynde,
My deare, to judge me so unkinde,
As one of wits bereau'd,
To breake the bonds of loyaltie,
As one devoyd of honestie ?

No, no, you are deceavd ;
For where such perfect amitie
Is linckt with true fidelitie,
By no meanes Junos jealousie

A funder may it part :
For since with you I fell in love,
Assigned by the Gods above,
My heart did never seeke to prove
From yours once to start.

For prooffe to try what I have fayd,
Marke how my flesh away doth fade, .
 And inward parts doth fret ;
For who can hide the flanking fire,
But that it will shewe foorth his ire
 By vertue of his heate ?
So those ypearst with Cupides dart,
Cannot so closely cloake their smart,
 But that they must complaine :
Their scalding fighes their forowes shewe,
Their colour, fading too and fro,
 Beares witnesse of their paine ;
Their fowre fitting in secrete nookes,
When others laugh, their lowring lookes,
Declares them caught in Cupides hookes,
 And fare as men forlorne.
Their often making of their mone,
Their solemne fitting all alone
In places secrete and unknowne,
 Still cursing they were borne,
Are tokens true, the poet sayth,
To whome these turtles vowe their faith,
 If fayning we may trust.
Certes, these torments all men greeve,
And therefore sure I do beleewe
 Their sayings to be just.
Wherfore to guerdon loyall love,
My deare, such fancies from you move,
 As Envie late did faine ;
For truly I protest to you,
The heavens shall fall ere I untrue

My loyaltie will staine :
 And time, I trust, will so provide,
 When elvish Envie shall her hide,
 From bale to blisse truth shall us hide,
 To top of Fortunes wheele :
 Where we, to banishe fell annoy,
 Stil live replete with blissefull joy,
 Still lauding of the blinded boy,
 Whose force we oft did feele.
 Till time obtaines that happy day,
 Let no conceite your mynd affray,
 In judging me untrue :
 Which blessed houre shall hap with speede,
 Or else my will shall want his meede ;
 And thus, sweete wench, adue.

*The infortunate lover determineth rather desperately to
 end his sorrowes, then to proroge them with
 bootelesse hope.*

The trayterous mate, by law adjudg'd to dye,
 If feare of death should worke this foule effect,
 In hope *saunce hap* his secrete to escrye,
 Or flaunder forge to peach the unsuspect,
 Proroging thus his life by dallying death,
 Besides his guilt with shame shuld stop his breath.

In desperate frayes, where raunsome is denyde,
 Base were the minde in hope of grace to yeald,
 Whose courage else might daunt his enimies pride,
 And so by force with fame to win the field ;

For where our wrong doth worke our overthrow,
In vaine we hope to weare away our woe.

And why shuld I with hope persuade my thought
To bath in blisse, past bondes of my defart,
For my base hap my love to high is fought,
Whom favour none, but frownings overthwart,
Alas! can reape at my sweete maistresse hands:
I love, she hates, and thus my fortune stands.

With withered woe my life I weare away,
Where often I heare, thundring in my thought,
Through love of her, my friendes and foes to say,
Upon my selfe I wilfull murther wrought:
Then, fith my death this strange report shal shape,
In vaine for grace till later gaspe I gape.

Nay, wretche, divorce delayes from wished death,
Cut through the thred which care confumes to flowe:
Thy mounting mind despiseth servile breath,
And canst thou yeald to fortunes overthrowe?
Thy dome is death, by ladies sorne decreed,
Needs must thou dye, then best to dye with speede.

Some friend wil write on my untimely tumb,
With faithfull zeale I so my goddesse serv'd:
My life, my love, my living, all and some,
I reast, and left, before my fancie swerv'd;
And when my fuit her mov'd to angry moode,
To worke amends I sacrificde my bloud.

*Verses of complaint, devised for a well meaning lover,
to move his maistresse to pitie.*

Now cease, good lady, cease to weave my further woe,
Where scorne hath worne my joyes to eb, let pitie force
them flowe.

[To] you, I sue and serve, to you I waile and weepe,
[For] you my restlesse eyes doth watch, when other men
do sleepe.

To you my sighes I fend, which makes my heart to bleede,
For you my teares, like Tiber streames, from dazeled eyes
proceede.

No wealth I do enjoy, but that I wish you part,
No grieve doth gale your daintie minde, but I do ease
your smart.

To rowle in bagges of golde in choice I would detest,
In faith, for to injoy your love, and harbour where you rest.
If you I might injoy, I, now forworne with woe,
To former joyes would be restorde, in spite of him fayer noe :
No torment then should vere, or nippe my heavie hart ;
All gulfes of grieve shall soone be damde which drownes
my joyes in smart :

Of age I should triumphe, and death I would defie,
And fortunes force I could withstand, for all her crueltie.
In you to save or spill, in you to make or marre,
In you it restes to end my woes, or cause my further care.
Twixt life and death I stand, twixt hope and deepe
despaire,

Till loving lines for pyning woe returnes a luckie share.

*The complaint of a gentlewoman, being with child,
falsely forsaken.*

What gulfes of griefe may well receive
The teares which I in vaine do spend?
What faithlesse wight durst once deceive
By falsehoode foule so firme a friend,
With lose, who wrayes how well shee lov'de,
When choise for chaunge his fancie moved?

Though reafon would I should refraine
His blame, my shame for to bewray,
Good ladies, yet my pinching paine
Injoynes mee here the truth to say,
Whose wretched plight and pensive state
Surmounteth farre Queene Didoes fate.

What meanst thou, wretch, from joy exilde,
To yeald unto his fained teares?
With carelesse vowes why wert begilde,
And feareleffe othes the traytor sweares?
Ere nuptial rites, why didst thou trust
His faith, and yeelde unto his lust?

Thou Jason false by perjurde flight,
Thou Theseus thefte decyphereft plaine,
I Dido wretch (thou Troyan knight)
Here equall griefes in breast sustaine.
I justly say, which wordes I rue,
All men be false, and none be true.

The fruites ysprong by our desire,
My wealth thou waste might move thy heart
To graunt the rightes which love require,
And search a falue to cure my smart ;
But sith thy faith thou doest forgoe,
Come, death, and end my wretched woe.

Yet, ladies all, beware by mee,
To rue sweete woordes of fickle trust :
My heaped harmes let warning bee,
How filed talke doth prove unjust,
And rule your love by reasons lore,
Least future plagues you do deplore.

*Against one which wrote a slanderous libell in
dishonour of a Ladie.*

Yhacht thou wert in envies nest,
Whose murthering tongue might not suffice
To woorke a ladies great unrest,
But that with penne thou didst devise
Vile vice to paint in vertues place,
Her spotlesse life for to disgrace.

Whose sacred head, with wisedome fraught,
Is guided by Dame Pallas skill ;
Her deintie minde Minerva taught
The good to love, to leave the ill ;
Then may it bee, shee doth deserve
Report from reasons lore to swerve ?

Noe, no, thou wretch and viper vile,
From natures lawe which dost rebell,
The world doth know thy giltie gile,
In dungeon darcke hence forth now dwell,
For all men doth thy fight repine,
From manly actes which doest decline.

The heavens do frowne with earthly foode
Thy carren corpes should nourisht bee,
Thou onely byrde of vipers broode,
And bitter braunch of rankors tree ;
A harpie for thy filthie factes,
For God and man abhorres thy actes.

Unfeene henceforth, thou caitife, couche,
Thou murtherer vile of others fame,
How durst thou once presume to touche
The honour due unto her name,
And make report that Dian chaste
Faire Venus knightes in bedde imbrafte ?

Allotting to her harmeleffe tongue
All rusticke speach, with Stentors voice,
Disdayning them whom love hath stonge,
For that with chaunge shee makes her choice ;
Not carefull of her curious charge,
But gladly rows in everie barge.

How may it bee such fertile foyle,
Well tilde and sowne with happie feede,
Can chuse in recompence of toyle,

But yeeld thee fruites of Venus meede?
Why worke I her so great abuse,
For gittleffe fact to frame excuse?

My paines herein deserves no praise,
For all men knowes more then I write;
But thou that didst this rumour raife,
If that thou darst to show thy might,
As truth maintaine thy flaundrous wordes,
Committing triall to our fwordes.

Who readie am her to defend,
Till wounded corpes, with bloud begord,
Of worldly woes do make an end,
By froward force of flaundrous fword,
Or [to] recant to make will I,
And for offence her mercie crie.

*The unfortunate lover is persuaded his mishap to
grow by destinie.*

Yet was not Hellens face, ne Parris, faire,
Untimely which did weave the Troyans woe,
For former faultes the Gods agreeede in ire,
With future panges their vengeance downe to throwe,
And making choyse, as instrument withall,
That Parris love should [be] king Priames thrall.

Such heaped harmes within the Heavens beene,
For one mans ease to cause anothers care,
Unfriendly so the fates mens happes do spin,

In partiall wife to yeelde eche wight his share :
Then, love, why should I curffe, or skorne lawe,
Or blame the dame one whom I stande in awe?

Her vertues rare, her pearlesse beautie bright,
Her Pallas witt, I, joynde with Sabas skill ;
My restlesse eyes, which covets fo her fight,
Are not the fates which forceth mee this ill,
For hier sprites devised long agoe
My youthfull yeares should passe in pyning woe.

*The discommodities of forst marriages, by the example of
Venus and Vulcan : supposed, for the more plaine ex-
playning of the inconveniences, to be written to a covetous
carle, having but one onely daughter, refused the offers
of diverse gentlemen, some beeing of good worship, and
married her unto an old croked coffing crust, for his
great wealthes sake.*

In prime of pride, when Venus minde to Junos rites
aspirde,

A wealthie cruste to catch her up her father then desirde ;
Perusing well his subjectes states, who best might be her
feare,

At length hee chus'de a Croydon chuffe to wooe his
daughter deare ;

Whose wealth, I do confesse, was great, y gott by endlesse
toyle

At smithes forge, with daily heate his apish face did broyle.
This gallant squire a wooing rid, his face bee grimde
with dust,

And comming to her fathers house this daintie dame he buft :
Who at the first this lady bright some monster thought
to bee,
Retyring backe affright shee was his uglye shape to see ;
But in the ende her fathers threatens, and Vulcans gifts
full brave,
Did force her daintie minde to yeelde this crabtree peece
to have.
The marriage rites in hast were wrought in presence of
them all,
Then hee this pearelesse dame conveyde unto his rusticke
hall,
Whereas, the rest solemnised, her friends they did depart,
The which once done, then streight begonne the summe of
all her smart ;
For hee fell to his former toyle before the dawning day,
Where bouncing blowes on stythie smit the sturdie Steele
to tame,
(Debard of rest) did force her with to tast of wedlockes game.
And as it is no newes to tell at all, nor seeming straunge,
How lovers they do never lacke whose mindes bee bent
to chaunge.
Here mightie Mars, ycleaped God of warre and battell ray,
Enforste to yeeld as Cupids thrall, and eke his heftes obey,
Determined to give attempt, to fraught his heart with blis :
Though conquest hard, yet glorie great, quoth hee, the
guerdon is.
Before her eyes his siege he plantes, like Phœbus rayes
that shan,
Assault hee gave, shee did resist, hee made no batterie than.
But one repulse his valiaunt heart in no respect amafde,

Hee shot againe, the bulwarkes fell, and all the walles
were raifde.

The fort thus wonne, as hee did wish, hee trode on pricking
thornes

To gaine the spoile of Vulcans toile, and arme his head
with hornes :

The which without refistaunce great hee joyed at his will,
But jelousie the gulfe did force to feare and dread that ill.
Which in the end when true hee found, hee framed by
his arte

A chaine to tie these lovers fast, so that they might
not ftarte,

And then for all the Gods hee sent, to see this laugh-
ing game,

Where they, in meede of pleasures past, received open
flame.

Loe! here the bitter fruites wherewith such mariages be
fraught,

Where wealth doth winne the womans will, and vertue set
at naught.

Such chaunce may hap to the old snudge, inforst by
greedie gaine,

Where pence possesse the daughters love, the man thee
doth disdaine.

And so fare well : at this my verse, mee thinkes, I heare
thee snuffe,

But doggrell rime were farre to good to greete a dunghill
chuffe.

*The forsaken lover sheweth to what intent he weareth tawnie;
bewraying the bondage that wanton dames
bring their thralls unto.*

My fancie once in fayre carnation floode,
And, trueth to fay, I lived in delight,
But loe! (such is the fruites of wanton moode)
Both dye and dayes are chaunged with despight.
In tawnie now I forced am to goe,
(Forsaken wretch!) my mystresse sorne to fhoe.

And would to God, who notes my wretched weedes,
Would wisely shunne the baites that beautie lay;
Her sweete receites an ill digression breedes.
Once bound ynough, her thralls must needs obey:
Yea, worse then that (though love seeme nere so hott)
When all is done, forsaken is their lott.

This is the badge that Cressids heyres do give;
They lure with grace, and loose with deadly hate:
Beware of them, you that in freedome live,
If not, behold a patterne of your fate:
Even I my selfe do weare this tawnie hue,
To shewe I serv'd a Cressid most untrue.

*The rejected lover determineth either to purchase his ladies
speedie reconcilment, or else desperately to die.*

Of thee, deere dame, faine would I learne the trueth,
If hee that brings the innocent in band,

Ar (so betrayde) who flayeth him faunce ruth,
Is thought herein to have the bloudieft hand?
If hee that doth the faultlesse first betray,
Then, cruell, note the wordes that I shall fay.

I am the man that longe can hardly live :
You with your scorne betrayde mee to despaire,
Then though my hand the deadly wound do give,
The murtherer it wilbe said you are ;
But if you shame such fowle report to prove,
Now yeeld, sweete wench, or never graunt to love.

Behold the blade that shall confirme my faith !
My woes consent in wanton yeares to die :
I live to heare but what your aunfweare faith,
Once lapt therein my life or death doth lie ;
For trust mee now, I (wretched) have decreede
To winne your love, or else to die with speede.

*The lover, being wounded at the Bathe, fues unto his
ladie for pitie.*

I bathing late, in bathes of foveraigne ease,
Not in those bathes where beauties blisse doth flowe,
But even at Bathe, which many a guesft doth please ;
But loe mishap ! those waves hath wrought my woe.
There love I sawe her seemely felfe to lave,
Whose fightly shape so fore my heart did heate,
That soone I shund those streames my felfe to save ;
But scorching fighes so fet mee in a sweate,
That loe ! I pine to please my peevish will,

And yet I freefe with frostes of chilling feare.
 Thus in extremes I live and languifh still,
 Without releefe, my reftleffe woes to weare :
 I blame the bathe as bruer of my bale,
 To give mee dregges when others drinke delight ;
 Thus to the ftreames I tell a fenfeleffe tale,
 Time to beguile, when abfence fpittes her fpite.
 But now perforce I fue to thee (fweete wench) ;
 With teares I pleade for pittie and for ruth,
 But if thou scornft my fcorched heart to quench,
 Doe but commaunde, and death fhall trie my truth.
 This blemifh, then, by thee, the bathe fhall gett,
 Which many one to health hath helpt of yore,
 A meane to mafhe men in dame Beauties nett,
 And cannot give a falve to cure their fore ;
 Which if you fhame, then fay no more but foe,
 I yeeld to love : thofe woordes will eafe my woe.

The Lover to his Ladie in durance.

Abandon care from daintie breaft,
 bewaile no more your fate,
 For why the Gods to pittie dreaft,
 will chaunge his ftormie ftate ;
 And graunt you joy at your defire,
 though rancor rage like Aetna fire.

Her aunfweare.

The proverbe faith, whilft graffe doth growe,
 For want of foode the fteede doth fterve :

So hope perplext with pining woe,
From reasons lore so oft doth swerve,
That dyre despaire doth winne the forte,
Where hope for succour should reforte.

A description of Jelousie.

A fearefull thought, which never doth remove
But when in armes hee holdes his heartes delight;
A wrangling hate where once was passing love,
Oft cold with hope, yet never quenched quite;
More cleare in fightes then woordes this woe is seene,
Sowne by suspect, but rooted with debate;
Wacht with mistrust whilst that the eare is greene,
Through ripe, mowne downe with fyth of mortall hate,
Is jelousie.

*To a disdainfull Da*m.*

Disdainful dame, why didst thou scorne the wight that
wisht thee wel?
May peevish pride a harbour have where beautie doth
excell?
No rascall here did seeke to sport, or joyne with gentle race,
Though hautie looks (thy forme except) were showne in
bafest place.

The haggard gill despiseth oft to pray on princely fowle,
To straggle out at carren crowe, and checke with uglie
owle.

Thy gadding trickes pursues her trade with vauntage in
defect;

Haile fellowe mett with basest fort, the best thou dost detect.

Beleeve how that thy forme was framde by fonde Narcis-
sus glasse,

Dame Beauties giftes full fickle are, and fade as doth
the grasse;

Thy goulden haire to hoarie graie will chaunge their glit-
tering hue,

Thy Lays life, and luring lookes, no doubt thy bane
will brue.

Thy face, so fresh in prime of youth, will wrinkled be
with age,

Then taunting tongue from scorneful nipps dame Nature
will assuage :

Thy mountaine breasts, which beares such bredth, thy pride
in princely gate,

Thy graces al in tracte of time wil chaunge their former
state.

Then shalt thou feele the force of scorne, what fruites from
pride proceede,

The ace of hartes will haunt the stocke, thy chieftest helpe
at neede.

The Lover in praise of his Ladie.

Apelles, O thou famous Greeke!

Thy praise unto my eares doth founde,

Since thou so farre abroad didst seeke
In countries through the world so rounde,
Till thou hadst drawn forth Venus shape,
Whose beautie past Syr Paris rape.

O! that thy fortune had beene such,
To light whereas my lady lives,
Whose glittering beautie is so much,
As to thinke on my heart it ryves ;
For Venus shee doth passe as farre,
As doth the sunne each thynying starre.

Eche gift which nature could devise,
By arte my Ladie E. retaines ;
A sacred head, which to surmise
The trueth, all other farre it stains :
Her haire bee of so glistering hewe,
As gold they staine to outward vewe.

Her cristall eyes, her sugred tongue,
From whence such pleasaunt wordes do flowe,
That lyking binds both old and younge
The ground to love where shee doth goe,
Her cherrie cheekes so fresh of hewe,
Her veynes much like to azurs blewe ;

Her rubie lippes, her snowish necke,
Her proper chin, her cristall breast,
Her pleasaunt veynes, whose pappes do decke
Her comely corpes so finely preast,
Her slender armes, with milke white hands,
Would catch the Gods in Cupids bands.

Her other partes, so finely wrought,
Doe passe my wittes for to recite,
For why it seemde dame Nature fought
In court eche gorgious gearle to spite,
When first of mould shee did her frame,
Shee is so beautifull a dame.

Noe marvell though the Græcian king
Did shape his course through fishfull floud,
From hatefull Troy his wife to bring,
Or els in Phrygia leave his bloud,
If halfe such beautie in Hellen were,
As is in this my ladie faire.

If Briseis beautie were so bright,
Her comely fyces so exceld,
None may blame Achilles flight,
When raging love his heart compeld
To leave his lord amid his foes,
A falue to searck to cure his woes.

Nor yet Ulysses none may blame,
Though frensie hee himselfe did faine,
Because without reprochfull shame
Hee would avoide the Græcian traine,
The which to Troy their course did shape
To fetch againe Syr Paris rape ;

If that the beautie equall were
Of chaste Penelope, his wife,
To match with this my lady rare,
For whom I hazard would my life

Amid a troupe of Troyans fell,
My fancie shee doth feede so well.

*An aunswere to a Gentlewoman, by love constrained to
sue to him whom of late she scorned.*

Nie driven to death by raging love, reviv'de by happie
meanes,
I smile you seeke that erst you scornd with those your
silver streames.
Now time performes, my words prove true, when as I was
your thrall,
Your sugred joyes in flowting me would turne to bitter gall.

Else not the name of Goddesse just dame Venus doth
deserve,
Unlesse her servauntes shee advaunce, and makes her foes
to serve.
Your scalding fighes, let witnes be, what sorrowes I
sustainde,
When as with pitious plaintes I shewd the panges that
moost mee painde.

But thou, spronge up of tygers feede, ingratefull dame,
I say,
When as with teares I fu'de for grace, wouldst smile and
goe thy way.
Now let mee laugh a while, I pray, to see the[e] plunge
in paine;
This is the salve to cure the smart that thou art like to gaine.

For why the childe, but younge once burnt, the fierie flame
 doth dreed,
 So I, once bounde and now am free, will tast no lovers
 meed.

*The contemptuous lover, finding no grace where hee faithfully
 favoureth, acknowledgeth his former scorne, used toward
 love, to be the onely cause of his miseries.*

In bondage as I live, attacht with Cupids mace,
 Exilde from joy, bereft of blisse, past hope of future grace,
 My felfe is judge, I do deserve
 Without reliefe in paine to sterue.

I smilde, when I was free, at those which fettred ware,
 But I (God wott) with beauties baite was caught in Cupids
 When least I thought of such a woe, [snare,
 My choice in chaunge was fleating foe.

But now with foaking fighes to one I sue for grace,
 Whose presence when I do approach, she straight doth
 shunne the place.
 My fight, my fighes, my teares nor truth,
 Her stoanie heart can move to ruth.

Yet love, that lives by hope, afresh enforced mee to prove,
 With pen to pleade what bashfull tongue dismayed was to
 But loe in vaine to her I write, [move;
 For love my guerdon is despight.

I ferve a froward faint, a tigers whelp I troe,
Shee fmiles to fee mee wade in fmart, her wish my wretched
And yet in truth shee blamelefse is, [woe.
My onely fault inforceth this.

She is but instrument, my felfe the very caufe,
Why I confume with cureles grieve for fcorning Cupids
Wherefore (fith love is fworne my foe) [lawes :
Divorce mee, death, from lingring woe.

And then for others heede this fillie boune I crave,
That I uppon my timelefse tombe this epitaphe may have :
The thing that caufde mee here to lie
Was fcorning love at libertie.

EPILOGUS.

For wantons heede heere wrayed is the thrall,
Of loving wormes, how both they freefe and frie,
How sweeteft thoughtes are fawft with bitter gall.
How care them cloyes that live in jeloufie,
What yll successe ftolne marriages enfue,
How forft consentes field beare a loving hart,
How fugged woordes to[o] late faire ladies rue,
How vaine they ftrove that lovers feeke to part,
How envious tongues are apt to fowe debate,
How fancie bringes the ftoutest mindes in awe,

How lovers wrongde from love do fall to hate,
How ramping rigges regard no modest lawe.
How lingring love doth oft mislyking move,
How gallants giftes fond women oft allure,
How pride and ease preferre mens thoughtes to love,
How lawlesse lust all mischiefe puts in ure.
How scorneful dames (that set mens futes at nought),
Of such as serv'd are glad to seeke reliefe,
How loving thralles from fetters free are taught
To shunne the snares that snarled them in grieve.
And to conclude, in every page is wrayde
A lightning joy, a life of lacke is love,
Who loveth least, which proves is best appaide,
For womens mindes as wether cockes will move.
Wherefore these toyes, who liste to read aright,
Shall finde *Loves woes*; not how to love I write.

FINIS.

The Arbour of Vertue,
A WORKE CONTEI-
ning the chaste and honourable life of
a Bohemian Ladie: to the which is adjoyned
the complaint of two Hungarian
Barons, that wagerd the spoile
of her Chastitie.

Wherein are the severall prayses
of certaine English Ladies and Gentlewomen;
being the translation, collection, and
invention of George Whet-
stons Gent.

Formæ nulla fides.

To the right Honourable and vertuous Lady,
Jana Sibilla Greye, now of Wilton,
George Whetstons wisheth a
longe and happie life.

RIGHT honourable and vertuous Ladie, *I find that our chiefest and greatest incouragement unto vertue is to heare the memorie of the vertuous continued with the carefull reportes of worthy writers; for that such testimonie is both a president for our lives, and also foreshewes after death our fames. Likewise it is as necessarie to register the lives of the leaude, that the terror of their punishments and infamie may feare us to offend. So that moved with these considerations (among a number my leasurable labours) I have faithfully (though not curiously) translated the modest and noble life of a Boemian Lady, with the fall of two Hungarian barons, which unadvisedly wagered the spoyle of her chastitie. Which simple toyle of mine, as a testimonie of the reverent dutie I owe unto you (under the title of the Arbor of Vertue) I humbly present to your Ladiship, to the intent that, when you are wearied with the dispatch of necessarie cares and causes, you may recreate your honourable minde with the mylde report of this Ladies good behaviours. Wholy assured that as you lively present her vertues, you wil likewise both defend her fame, and my honest indeavour, with the countenaunce of your regarded name. From my lodging in Holborne, the 15 of October. 1576.*

Your honours during life to dispose.

GEORGE WHETSTONS.

*The Argument of the following discourse
of Lady Barbaraes vertuous
behaviours.*

A Boemian knight, named Ulrico, married a vertuous lady, called Barbara. Ulrico, being a little nipt with povertie, woulde faine have supplied his want by service in the warres, which adventure he long delayed through the jealous suspicion of his wives behaviour: notwithstanding, his imaginations quieted by the direction of a cunning negromancer, named Pollacco, hee craved intertainment of the king of Hungarie: the king (vouchsafing his request) imployed him in the warres against the Turke. The warres ended, Ulrico (laden with honour) returned unto the kings court, where one day the lord Alberto, the lord Udislao, and he, reasoned of womens behaviours. The Hungarian barons helde opinion, there was no woman so chaste but might be won to wantonneffe: Ulrico (in his ladies behalfe) reasoned to the contrarie. In the end, they grewe into this heate of argument, that both the lordes wagered their landes to his, that if he durst abyde the triall, that the one of them within two monethes woulde obtaine bodily delight with his wife. Ulrico accepted of their lay, the wager beeing fet downe in writing: the king and queene were both witnessses of the match. Alberto gave the first adventure in these loving affaires to winne her to wantonneffe.

The lady, finding his humour, by policies (as a theefe that fought to rob her honour) caused him to be imprisoned ; where, to bridle his wanton affections, she made him to spin for his victuals. Alberto (in hope of libertie) discovered to the lady the whole wager, and how that the lord Udiflao would come about that enterprife ; who in very deede shortly visited her castle : whome she likewise made foorth comming, and in penaunce of his offence, hee reelde the thread Alberto spon. The king and queene, hearing of their successe, had the lady in high estimation, awarded Ulrico the lande, and banished the barons for their flaunderous opinion.

THE ARBOUR OF VERTUE.

As supreme head of Hungarie a king there whileome reign'd,
Corvinus hight, whose worthy force a worlde of praifes gain'd :
What law and justice once had made through rule he never
broke ;

He cherisht friendes, he chaft his foes with many a sturdy
ftroke.

Ymov'd through zeale, with clattering armes he ftoupt S.
Mahones pride,

The Turkish crue from Christian boundes he chaft on
every fide.

This noble prince unto his fpoufe a gallant lady chufde,
A matrone in her mayden yeres, fuch modeftie fhe ufde :
By whom fhe had three valliant fonnes, three vertuous
daughters eake,

Which worthy ympes, in wifdomes lore, did live without
their like.

Befides, with haps to heape his joyes, his fubjectes greede
fo well,

That foes could finde no hollow hearts againft him to rebell:
As vaffell to which noble king there was a Boeme knight,
A valiant and a ventrous lord, Ulrico was he hight.

In prime of force he plyde the warres, his parents purfe
to eafe :

His parents dead, he home returnd his tenants pence to feafe.
But fmall was left to pray upon : his auncestours did desire

By dint of blade, not bagges of droffe, to honour to aspire.
Which when Ulrico wifely wayde, and wanted on account,
He bent him felfe, with haffard life, by service for to mount.
But loe! by lot he hit in love; a wonder fmall to tell,
Save that his ladies vertues did her beautie brave excell.
Her portion yet (God wot) was fmall, yet all in wifdome lay,
A dowrie little reactt upon, where churles doth beare away;
But beautie here affection rayfde, then vertue friendship
wrought,

Thefe two conjoynd in feemely dame in love Ulrico brought.
The earth (quoth he) is fure the Lords, the fruites thereof
his wracke,

And may it be, the begger then fhall clawe his fervants
backe?

O no! no wight as yet hath feene the righteous begge his
breade,

Although the lewd through foule offence are often nipt
with neade:

And if I fhould for gaine (quoth he) unto fome wanton bend,
Which venter into Cornewall would her honeftie to fend,
Ulrico (hapleffe) then fhould be a common fcorne of men,
Delight to dole, from pleasure paine fhould chaunge his
fortunes then.

To fwimme in wealth he meanes not fo to haffard his
delight:

He fomewhat hath, and more may get by manhood and
by might.

Thy choife, if once thou winft thy choife, in fpight of For-
tunes wracke,

Will fave what thy adventures gaines for to relieve thy lacke.
Then maift thou live in forreine foyle, without a jealous
braine,

Then maist thou taste, at thy returne, sweete pleasure for
thy paine.

Why standst thou then amasde (quoth he), thy honest suite
to move?

The silent man, the proverbe sayth, hath fildome hap in love;
Confesse that constant long thou liv'dst y linckt in beauties
bandes,

And challenge freedome for thy truth at thy sweete maif-
tresse handes.

This wayd, Ulrico hies in haste whereas his lady lives,
And there her friends in her behalfe him intertainment gives.
As time did serve he shewd his zeale unto his only joy:
She likte his words, but more him selfe, how so she
seemed coy:

His gallant shape, his vertues straunge, his honour never
stainde,

His truth once knowne, the truth to tell, her love had
soone obtainde,

And quickly eake, with friendes consent, them Junoes rites
doth glad:

He had his will, and she her wish, and what would more
be had?

The nuptiall feastes yfinished, Ulrico with his dame
Bids friends adewe, to castle his they do their journey frame,
Where one doth rayse the others joy, one rids the others care,
And thus, contented with their choice, in joy their dayes
they weare,

Till neede at length Ulrico nips, who was in spending free:
His rents but small, these two accounts will hardly well
agree;

And yet to poll his tenants poore his honest mynde doth
greave,

What then, he faine would ferve his leage, but loth his wife
to leave.

See here how paffing love is apt to rayfe a jealous feare
Withouten caufe, we fo do dread the thing we hold full
deare.

Ulricos mynd despifeth want, yet dreads to feeke reliefe
In abfence, leaft his ladyes chaunge fhould worke his
greater grieve.

And thus in filence long he mournes, and ebs his joyes
with woe,

Till fecret fighes and heavie lookes his inward harmes
forefhewe :

Which haply when his fpoufe efpipe, to cleare his cloudes
of fcare,

Sweete heart (quoth she) unto thy wife thy hidden for-
rowes fhare,

So fhall thy cares abridged be, fo fhall I knowe thy mynde,
And haply in my counfell thou fome comforte sweete
maift finde.

Thefe words Ulrico likte fo well, as ftraight he tels the truth,
Of prefent want, of meane to wealth, in order as infu'th.

Mine owne (quoth he) you know my ftate, or prefent lacke
withall,

Our charge is great, our myndes are high, our living is
but fmall ;

Of force we muft our braverie leave, or feeke fome way
of gaine,

And vayling to the valliant mynde is fure a matchleffe
paine.

This is the meane to mend our want : to ferve my fove-
reine leage,

Who now is bent with might and maine the Turke for
to besiege :

Those warres, ere this, I well have tryde, under Ci[ci]lia Count,
Those warres, I trust, shal force thy feare with wealth and
fame to mount.

But ah! (aye me) I loth, yet would unfolde what makes
me stay ;

But fith, sweete wench, love is the cause, allowe what I
shall say.

Long wisht, at length I won thy love, O gem of al my joy !
As loth I am to leave thee now, least absence make thee coy :
I call to mynd fayre Helens moode, who trudg'd with
Trojan knight,

When as her lord was forst from home with forreine foes
to fight.

The ruffling rout at Ithaca, Ulysses farre from home,
Doth force a thousand fearefull thoughts within my head
to rome :

Then Penelopes constancie this dread would gladly weare,
She plasht alone, without her leake, afresh doth raise
my feare.

The speech of womans meekenesse eake, my thoughtes
doth run among,

And straight my thinkes I motions heare, that do Ulrico
wrong :

In mynd I viewe what batterie is against thy beautie bent,
In thought I see what sharpe assaults in fugred wordes
are sent ;

What feareleffe othes, what carelesse vowes, do flee to foyle
thy fame,

In fine thou forst, with yealding will, doth blot thy name
with blame.

Then rage I straight, the[e] (harmlesse) gainst, as thogh these
toyes were true,

And straight I checke those raunging thoughts with reason
that infue.

Ulrico, fye ! why wrongs thy wife so fouly with mistrust,
Whom hitherto thou couldst not finde in worde or deede
unjust ?

Whose modestie thou seeest abhorres with rufflers for to prate,
To save thy wealth whose mynd to worke gives wanton
youth the mate,

Whose life with foule and leaude offence report could
never spot ;

What cause hast thou, Ulrico, then, her fame with feare
to blot ?

To breake this brall, faire Barbara (so was this lady namde)
With prettie nippes, with pardon mixt, this answere foorth-
with framde.

Well sayde (quoth she) first faine you feare, to free my
shrewd mistrust

That choise and chaunge in wanton court wil make you
prove unjust ;

But simple I accept your shewe, and faith I trust to finde,
But to my lord, if so he please, I yet will shewe my minde.
I long ere this have wayde our want, and thought on
meanes of gaine,

And sure I sawe the way for wealth was as you did explaine ;
Yet durst I not unfolde the same unto my loving lord,
Before his words foreshewd his thoughts with mine did
wel accord.

By service you shall credite winne, by service likewise fame,
By service you shall riches reape as you deserve the same :

By service, favour with our prince, acquaintance in the court,
You sure shall finde : slacke not these helps, your wife doth
you exhort.

If God with children bleffe our life, their youth from
vices freed,

Your credite after in the court will stand them in some
steede,

And in your absence I so well will to your causes see,

As you shall have reliefe abroad, sufficient left for mee :

Yea sure, to brave it with the best ; yet live within our
boundes,

Such skyll I have to most avayle to rate and rent our
groundes ;

And knowe you once, my heart is high, if living there to
stretch,

Yet stoupe I will to please my lord, to live as rents will reach.

And thus, Ulrico, dost thou heare what thy poore wife
can say,

In wealth, in want, abroad, at home, thy will she will obey.

Whose modest tale Ulrico heard with patience to the end,

And sayd, to use her sound advise long earst his thought
did tend :

And now I am resolv'd (quoth he) the warres, sweete wife,
to ply,

Let worst betyde that may befall, I sure with fame shall dye.

Yet ere I go, my friends shall know my mynd and state
at large,

But of my lande, my house and goods, none shall but you
have charge.

And in this moode from friend to friend so long he did
refort,

That at the length Pollaccos skill he heard by fonde report,
Of whome was sayd, by secrete arte he could such wonders doe,

As none could worke an acte in thought, but he the same
would shoe :

He could informe the loving worme if his faire ladie fainde,
Or if she lov'd, yea, if she had her honour ever staine ;
For ramping rigges to Venus joyes their nature proane
that feales,

He could worke meanes of sport without a tympanie with
heales.

Strange charmes he had to force them love, that late to hate
were bent ;

He could foretell what hap, what harme, the heavens to us
ment,

With thousand sleights of hidden skill which I omit to write.
Yet turne I to Ulicos thought, when rumour did recite
Pollaccos learning thus at large, who sayd in his mynde,
To free my jealous head from feare a meane now shall I
finde.

Pollaccos knowes if that my wife her selfe will faithfull shewe,
Or if she doth her honour staine, I absent, yea or no.

If in this journey she be just, then dread for aye adue ;
If she be false, I fellowes have whose wives are found untrue :
Once feare yet frets my hart as fore, as if such fault were
wayde.

With that Ulico postes with speede to crave Pollaccos ayde,
And comming to his homely house he doth Pollacco greete,
And craves to speake a worde with him where he should
thinke it meete.

They both unto a garden walke, and thus Ulico fayde :—

Your speciall giftes in secreete artes, to me of late bewrayde,
Compels me now (Pollacco friend) to crave your friendly
might :

My fute is small, and yet be fure great gaine your paine shall
quite.

In what I can, Pollacco sayd, I rest at your commaund.
Then use your arte (quoth he) I pray, to graunt this poore
demaund.

Truth is, I meane with speede to serue my fovereigne in the
warres,

Yet jealous thoughts, I wot not why, with this accorde still
jarres.

Sometime my ladies zeale in shewe doth banish dread with
hope,

But straight againe mistrust doth give to fearefull fancies
scope ;

And thus, to naught avayle, I weare my golden time in woe,
Such is the force of passing love to feare for every shewe.

But now, Pollacco, to my suite : by arte I crave to knowe,
In absence mine, if that my wife be faithfull, yea or no ?

Let worst betide, yet so I shall my dread exile (quoth he)
Such feates you can, and therefore nowe let will with skill
agree.

Pollacco, made to heare this tale, to this effect replyde,
That science to her schollers yet such secretes had denyde ;
And how should I dissolve this doubt that learned judges
dread,

Conceive the best, ne wronge the worst, faunce knowledge
of the dead :

And therefore, Syr Ulrico, cease : your suite surmounts my skill.
What so (quoth he) of skill befallles, graunt but agreeing will.

Whereon Pollacco thus replyde : sith nycenesse will not serue,
I graunt I know by arte this acte, but use from lawe doth
fwerue.

Yet breach of lawe I hazarde will, to free Ulicos dout.
Stay here (quoth he); to worke this feate I will now go about.
Anon he comes, with picture framde much like Ulicos wife:
So long (quoth he) this forme keepes faire she lives an
honest life;

If yellowe, tempted then she is; if blacke, with merrie gayles
Unto the Cornish mount, god buoy, in hast her honour sayles.
This knowne (appayd) Ulicco sayd, in hope thy words are
true,

Holde here thy hyre; my hart is easde, and so, good friend,
adue.

Away he goes, and to his wife his household charge commits,
Which done, while winde and whether serv'd, unto the seas
he gets.

Such speede he made, as soone he at Albe Regale lands.
The king there lay, Ulicos suite who shortly understands,
And gladly intertaind him, yea, gave him pay in peace,
Which grace when foes inforst in fight did double force in-
crease;

Asprooffe ere long appeared plaine. The Turke began to turre,
Which causde the king to cry alar'm, to chase this gracelesse
curre.

The valliant wightes, in armour dight, their forward myndes
do shewe,

Each thing prepard for fouldiers use, to warres these gallants
goe.

Mustapha Basca had the charge of all the princes power,
Ulicco was his Colonel, preferd in happie houre.

Post haste they made, untill they came within their enemies
fight,

Then, bustling to their bloody tooles, they shewe good willes
to fight.

At trumpets sound the horsemen fling, the shot to skyrmiss
fall,

The archers, with their feathered darts, both horse and man
doth gall.

The furie of the forward wightes to handie stroakes them
bring :

Here houlbards hewe, there bloody fwords, on battered tar-
gets sing.

Som faint with wounds, som flee for feare, som fight to save
their friend ;

Thus eyther side king Harrie knockes both doth receive
and lend.

The battell long continued hote, each would faine victor bee,
But to be short, for all their force, in fine the Mahounes flee.

The Turke his pryde abated well, and all things quiet made,
Mustapha Basca and his charge returned with honour lade.

The ladies nowe (with many a kyffe) receive the soveraine
lords,

And every man to see his friend a *buon venu* affordes.

In court there doth no triumph want these captaines to delight,
At justes some use their force in sport that late did fiercely
fight ;

Some makes report of wreakefull warres, the blisse, and eake
the bale,

Some loytrers in their ladies lappes doth tell a wanton tale :
Some have an ore in others boate, some colours do expound,
And some doth note their heavie looks whom Cupides
dart did wound.

Syr Ulrico, among this crue, some exercise did use,
To whome at length Aberto sayde, Syr knyght, I can but
muse

That you that have a ladie faire, two yeares from her have
stayde :

You knowe a womans force (God wot) a long is easily layde,
You knowe that love, with leasure joynde, makes wantons to
be bolde.

She hath her will, health, wealth, and ease, she rules and not
contrould :

With all these helps she sure will wish to taste some wanton
joy ;

Then if she have her wish at will, thinke you she will be coy ?

Whereto Ulrico thus replyde : I answere not for all ;

But sure my wife will constant be, what fortune so befall.

She is no gadder farre from home, she helps not beauties
blase,

Her words and workes are modest both, she gives no youthes
the gase :

With honest exercises still she fancies fonde preventes,
To heare my good successe abroad her carefull mynde
contents.

Syr knyght, quoth Udilao then, since so you love your wife,
Besheewe me, if that my reply do sowe sedicious strife.

You have enough, what would you more ? let others have a
snatch.

Alberto sayde : Will he or nill, she would in corners catch.

And to be short, both lordes affirme, that ladie liveth not,

If that a wife and valiant knight her honour can not blot.

Ulrico did deny it flat, they still affirmd it true,

And thus they pleade, untill the queene their controversie
knewe :

Who for that these barons so wrought a flaunder to her sect,
Their foolish, rash, and judgement false she sharply did
detect.

Alberto (fuming at this cheacke) this answere made the
queene.

Not for to move your grace to wrath our argument hath
beene;

Yet if Ulrico like the match, my lande to his I lay,
How that, ere twice the moone hath cast her horned head
away,

I battell will his browes so well, as hornes thereon shall growe,
Provided that his wife afore the wager doth not knowe:

And further, if I win her love, his ladie so he use,

As if that she her honour did in no respect abuse.

The yong lord Udilao would the self same wager try.

Ulrico armde him felse to take their proffers by and by:

Indentures to assure this match ingrossed were in haste,

The covenants as before exprest were in the perchment plaste.

The king and queene gave free consent the wager should be
laid,

Th' indentures seald by either part, and all things fure are
made.

It was agreed Alberto should the battering tyre lay;

If lady Barbara did resist, Udilao should assay

With sharpe assault of wanton wordes to batter downe her
praise.

If two monethes shee could make defence these lords their
siege should raise,

And lose their living for their hire, which smal misliking
breedes.

See, see, the fonde effectes of hope! Alberto forward speedes,

And spies in fine the castle walles wherein this lady lay :
Who safe arrived at his inn, streight chaungde his riding ray,
And clothd a newe, as pleasd his minde, it was not longe
ere hee

To see Ulricos castle hyde, his heartes delight to see.
To purchase welcome first he tould Ulricos happie state,
And, having causes in those coastes, hee durst not passe
his gate,

Before hee had to her his wife those welcome tidings shard,
To finde occasion to returne how shee, his lady, fard.
Dame Barbara (joyfull of these newes) requested him to take
In worth such intertainment as her power was to make.
The lord Alberto made no bones to be his ladies guest,
But like a courtier brave and bould vouchsafed her request :
Till supper time with honest talke shee wisely held him
tacke,

When suppe hee should, of daintie fare shee saw he had
no lacke.

Alberto (feasted like a prince) prickt forth with pleasaunt
braine,

Affayed many times to fall into some loving vaine ;
Dame Barbara, though faine shee would have broke this
botelesse prattle,

Least he should thinke his welcome heard did hould him
tacke in tattle,

Which courtesie he construed thus : *The dame that is content
To listen to a tale of love, to love will soone consent :*

Forgetting how of force they must some such discourses
heare,

Or to to coy, their friends forsake, which manners will not
beare.

But leave I that : Alberto thought his match was meetely sure,

And still to stoupe this modest dame hee threw his wanton lure :

Hee flattering questions moved oft, shee pretily answerde all ;
At length, into his loving fute hee soberly did fall.

And with a sighe, Deare dame (quoth hee) admitt my faithfull zeale,

Who forst through love, must needs unfould that faine I would conceale.

Your beautie, birth and comely shape, report so hie hath prised,

That, trust mee, as I heard you namd, in thought I thus furnisde :

This lady staynes fyr Paris rape, in face, in forme and hew,
And as hee lov'd through brute of fame, so I in faith do you ;
And try who list, love wounds so fore, if hee empayreth health,

His thralles can hardly be restord by reason, witt, or wealth.
Their soveraignes grace must be their salve, naught else can work their rest,

Unlesse they will abridge their dayes, of both the bads the best.

I love, I graunt, beyond my reach, for to recant I strive,

But love I must, and loth I am to live and die alive.

My helpe is on my selfe that I untimely murther try,

My woes consent, yet have I vowde in your sweete fight to die.

Despaire hath sped me to this place, my forrowes to appease :

My tale is tould, you knowe my trueth ; preserve mee if you please.

This loving zeale, so sharpely showne, did strike the lady mute :

Her answere now was farre to seeke, shee hated so his fute.

Alberto, that did note this chaunge, in wordes, in lookes
and all,
Thought how his shape and friendly shoes had brought her
hart in thrall;
And therefore to untie her tongue, hee flily stole a kisse.
She litle said, and yet she thought there was no woe to this,
And as shee musde, shee found a meane his follies to reprove,
And yet the feate must needs be wrought with fained
shewe of love;
Which shee so finely counterfets, as if shee lov'de in deede,
Or that her cause of straungenes late of passion did proceede.
Alberto, thus advaunst with hope, afresh now pleades
for ruth,
She stands not greatly on his sute, but falls to faine
his truth.
The knight (by proove of pleasures past) when she this
issue tooke,
Thought sure with sugred wordes she had devoured Cupids
hooke;
And (as he thought) to free suspect for othes he spared not,
That neither chaunge, or any chaunce, should him with
falshehood blot.
Fewe wordes to waste, she faind at length shee was content
to love,
And pointed both a time and place a pleasaunt tast to prove.
But least by absence from your inn, quoth she, suspicion grow,
I nowe bequeath you to your ease; when to returne you know.
Alberto, loured with thoughtes of joy, unto his lodging goes,
Who thinkes eche houre a yeare till that the morrowe
morning shoes.
Well, yet at length the houre came that flattered him
with grace,

Who all too hastie hide him felfe to his appointed place.
Arrived there, a pretie minx (directed wel before)
Unto a lodging brought this lord, and locked fast the dore.
When he was fafe, awaye she went, for joy Alberto hopt,
But fee, a chaunge ! too late he spyde he was in prifon popt.
The windowes made of yron barres, the walles of ftone
and clay,

A bed he found, but farre unfit he thought for Venus play.
Is this a place of joy ? (quoth he) O no ! I am betrayde.
He had no fooner fpake thefe words, but came faire Bar-
baras mayde,

Who at a grate Alberto calles, to whom she ufde thefe
words :

This is the courtesie, fyr knight (quoth she), my ladie you
affordes.

Firft, like a theefe fith that you fought to rob her of
her fame,

She hath in prifon layde you fast, your lawleffe love to tame :
And further (to allay your heate) unleffe you daily spinne
This diftaffe laden full of flaxe, your fare will be but thinne.
This fayd, the diftaffe in she throwes, and bad him thus
adiou :

My tale is tolde, you knowe your tafke, nowe worke as
pleafeth you.

Alberto, at thefe forrie newes ftraight to this choller waxe.

Shall I from martiall exercife fall nowe a fpinning flaxe ?

Shall I that liv'd at libertie, in prifon thus be pend ?

Shall I be fys'd of meate and drinke, that late fo much did
fpend ?

And shall a ladie foyle me thus whose hart the ftoutest
quaild ?

There with he strove to breake the doores, but small his
force availd.

His grieve but greene, with termes of hate he blam'd this
ladie oft,

And supperlesse so went to bed, which was not very soft ;
But in respect of other plagues, he thought the hardnesse
small,

Who tyred with tormenting thoughts, a sleepe did quickly
fall.

When he had sleapt the night away, and cares digested well,
Sharpe hunger so affayld this lord as he to spinning fell :
His goutie and yll shapen thredes so moved him to smyle,
That well he likt the exercife, his sorrowes to beguile.

At dinner time dame Barbaras mayde was to Alberto sent,
To share his lowance like his worke, to whome this courtoll
went,

And rudely calles to see the yarne he had that morning
sponne :

Alberto (eger of his meate) deliverd what was donne.
By Saint Marie (quoth this queane) your huswiverie is good ;
And after she had frumpt him well, she fetcht his forrie foode.
A weeke or more, these hungrie meales in worth Alberto
tooke,

In hope of grace, which came so slowe as he his hope forfooke.
See yet desire of libertie, see nowe the fruites of neede,
See here how theeves their fellowes peche, see, see, how hope
doth feede !

Alberto for dame Barbara sendes, to whom he shewes at
large

The wanton wager, words, and workes, as I have given in
charge,

And how that Udiflao would, ere long, attempt the like :
Which ftraunge difcourfe the ladie did into a wonder ftrike.
Oh God ! (quoth fhe) what caufe give I, men fhould fufpect
my life ?

I never clim'd beyonde my reach, I am a loving wife ;
And comes there yet another lord, that would my vertues
ftaine ?

Well, let him come, he fhall abide hard penance for his paine.
This fayde, fhe wild the gaylor fee Alberto fpinne apace.
His newes thus recompenced were ; whome nowe I leave a
fpace,

To fhewe what rumor in the court in every corner rounge,
Some fay Albertos joyes were fuch, as loth to part he founge.
Ulrico oft his image viewd, to fee what hue it bare,
And all the while it yellowe feemd he liv'd in perilous feare ;
But when it turnd to white againe, what fo the courtiers fay,
He knew Alberto had the foyle, and he had won the day.
The other competitor thought his fellowes joyes too great,
So that to have a fhare with him, he pofted till he fweate,
And pofting thus he at the length Ulricos caftle fpyde,
And making then more hafte then fpeede, poft hafte he
thether hyde ;

Who fafe arriv'd where he did wifh, to make his welcome
more,

He had an errant readie ftampt, yea two or three, in ftore.
He firft commended to this dame her husbandes happie health,
His fpeciall credite with his prince, his fame and heapes of
wealth,

And how on caufes of his owne, into thefe coaftes he came,
And how he heard in happie time his friend Ulricos name ;
And alfo how not farre from thence did dwell his ladie faire,

And how he, bounde by courtesie, to see her did repaire.
The ladie smiled in her mynde to heare this currant scuse,
And yet, diffembling what she thought, she friendly did him
use.

Yea, courteously she crav'd he would his causes yet adjourne,
And at his friend Ulricos house with her awhile sojourne.
Her gentle offer to accept this lord was nothing nice,
And yet, ere longe, her curtesie he bought at too hie price.
Well, both (contented, as it seemd) into the castle goe,
Where, as faire Barbara glads her friend with welcomes
great in shoe :

She talkt, she walkt, shee satt, she stoode, as likt this
gallant best,

Yea, many a straunge discourse did passe betweene her and
her guest :

In fine, to towle this lord in love, a fighting shee began,
And asked how Alberto farde, as if she lov'de the man.
The lord Udislao did take this motion in good part,
Who smyld and said, in secrete thought, Alberto had her
heart :

And for to strike her in a mase, quoth hee, I wott not well,
Since last he vew'd these countrie costes where as my
frend doth dwel.

Faire Barbara, as though she feard, this lords welfare did
faine ;

And is hee not (quoth shee) returnde unto your court
again ?

This lure thus throwne, to worke some hope in Udslaos
breast,

The lady broke the prattle off, and fell to feast her guest.
The lusty Hungarian lord likt well her kindnes showne,

Yet still he for advauntage stayde, to make his passions
 knowne,
Whose subtiltie, when shee espide, t'imbolden him the more,
Against her will, her eyes did seeme more wanton then
 of yore ;
And trained thus to treade of love, at length his tongue
 found scope ;
She made it nice, yet not so straunge, but he might feede
 on hope.
Hee feeding still on shewe of grace was loth to leave
 the feeld,
She faring as shee likt his talke by peece meales gan
 to yeeld.
In fine, she fainde how that his fute had wonne her to agree,
And how shee would sometime that night her lovers lodg-
 ing see ;
Untill which time this frolicke lord committed her a dieu,
A fainde good night shee likewise gave, and wild her ser-
 vaunts shoe
Him where he should that night be lodgde ; whose lodging
 was prepard
Next chamber to the prison where Alberto hardly farde.
Well, Udislao went to bedde, full fraught with secrete joy,
And still he lookt when his faire dame would kepe her
 promise *foy* ;
But all in vaine he gapt for grace, she glad she had him
 catcht.
Yet see the fond conceites in love ! in hope the night he
 watcht,
He hard no noyse, no moufe could steare, but streight in
 thought he smild :

O welcome, lady! (quoth his heart) but when he was beguild,
He Sopor blamd for charging her with to much drowfie
fleepe,

But of his faultes and wager fond at all he tooke no keepe.
Wel, al this night, with fancies toft, no sleepe lodgde in
his breast,

When morning came this comfort came to fet his heart
at rest :

Dame Barbaras mayde brought him a reele, and yearne
Alberto made ;

She tould him he should reele the fame, for that he had
affaide

To robbe her lady of good fame, to her then life more deare :
If he refusde to doe his taske, he should have forrie cheare.

Loke you for neither meate nor drinke, before your worke
be donne ;

And fyr (quoth shee) t' incourage you, the thread Alberto
sponne :

Hee is your neighbour ; fare you well, I can no longer stay.

These forrie newes Udislao nie out of his wittes did fray :

Alberto toke his pennaunce ill, but he did tenne times worse ;

Hee rag'd, he rav'd, the ladies scorne, himselfe, and all
did curse,

But what for that ? how so he did himselfe agreeved feele,
One of these evils hee needes must chuse, to sterue or else
to reele :

And of both bads the best he chusde : in fine to worke
he fell ;

His rash attempt had this successe, which he deserved well.

Nowe that this vertuous dame hath gott the conquest
of her foes,

These lordinges pennance for their pride she to their servants shoes ;

In whose behalfe, her bountie here, I must of force commende :

They wanted not for daintie fare, how so they fast were pend.
These barons men (at libertie) streight posted to the court,
And of their lords imprisonment there make they large report.

These newes of note about the court went flinging every where,

So longe as both the king and queene these gallants fortunes heare.

The king, to learne the certaine truth, to Lady Barbara sent
His chauncelour, and other lords, where as they found fast pent

Lord Alberto and Udilao, Alberto spinning thread,
And Udilao reeling it, with fretting well nie dead.

The lady shewde the newe come lords the matter all and some,

And how to tame their lawlesse love the barons did this dome.

The chauncelor what earst is scowne returned to the king,
Whose pleasure was he should with him with speede both parties bring.

They all arrived at the court, the king judg'd out of hand,
Ulrico had the wager wonne, and he should have the land.
And more against the spoiled lords with justice to perfever,
In penance of their lavish tongues they were exilede for ever.

Faire Barbara, for foyling them, did to her honour mount :
She was the chiefe about the queene in credite and account.

Whereas she lived many dayes, and helde her wifh at will,
Nowe being deade, in worthy fame, her vertues liveth still.

Virefcit vulnere virtus.

*The complaint of the Lorde Alberto and Udislao, the two
Hungarian barons, that unadvisedly wagered their land
to winne the vertuous Ladie Barbara to wanton-
nesse: who having the foyle (besides the losse of
their livings) for their flaunderous opi-
nions were condemned to perpetuall
exile.*

Come, gallants, come, by both our falles take heede ;
With our fonde faults you most infected are :
You worke more wrong in flaunder then in deede,
And yet in deede your flatterie worketh scare.
Learne, learne by us, too lavish speach to spare ;
Large offers though faire ladies ofte intice,
Thinke there be dames that wil not vaile to vice.

First mende your owne, ere others faults you blame ;
See that your life before you teach you trie ;
Flucke out the beame that blindes your sighte with shame,
So may you finde a moate in others eye :
What yet you note reprove not openly.
Observe this course, heare, see, and say the best,
For lavish words procureth much unrest.

Had we but wayde that halfe experience shewes,
We might have liv'd in honour, as of yore,

The want we waile, and warne you by our woes,
The least of which your hearts would much abhorre ;
For what may be, then this a mischief more ?
Once lustie lords, now prisd at lowest rate,
And free men borne, to live in banisht state.

What noble mynde, whose hands could weapons use,
Would brooke his handes should eyther reele or spinne ?
To feede on crustes what foole would not refuse,
Whose courtest fare a messe of meate hath bin ?
In this distresse perforce we lived in,
Too hard a plague, say you, for fault so small :
We thinke not so that have indurd the thrall.

For who at full may value honest fame ?
Whose wound so deepe as his that flaunders carvd ?
Our flaundrous thoughts suspected every dame,
Our flaundrous touns sayd all from vertue swarv'd ;
For which exile we worthily deserv'd.
She usde us well (whose praise we fought to spoyle)
In huswives trades for meate to make us moyle.

Our lande we lost, by lawe and wager both,
He wonne it well that ventured for the fame,
But worse then these (the which to shewe I loth)
Our follies leave a memorie of shame,
Unto us both a corfive to our name.
Well, what is paste too late we call againe,
Sufficeth now we warne with prooffe of paine.

And knowe ye first, what raisd this flaundrous thought :
Forfooth our lives in loytring daliance spent,

We other doomde by faults that they had wrought,
And joynd with this their spoyles by fonde consent,
Which yealded bound vnto our loving bent,
Did make us thinke, at every wanton whoope
To lures of love a ladie faire would stoope.

What yet we thought our touns did fore recoyle,
In flaundring them our lives for to accuse,
For who so vaunts of any lovng spoyle,
Confesseth howe him felse he doth abuse,
The greatest vice that worthy mynds may use.
Deservng wel, their worth who should not praise;
Deserving ill, much lesse a thousand wayes,

Oh stay we here! what meaneth our advise,
When we, God wot, so much of counsell neede?
And how againe shall we unhappie rise?
Alberto speake, what way shall we proceede?
And art thou mute? Udislaes hart doth bleede,
Oh (men forlorne) how wretched is our state,
Whome heaven and earth oppresse with heapes of hate!

Who will esteeme our manhoode and our might,
By ladies force to carde, to spinne, and reele?
Where so we live all women will us spight,
And cause they have with such disdaine to deale,
Yet plagues ynow we else in penance feele.
O flaunder! thou on us these [ills] haste brought,
Foule fall the cause thou harboredst in our thought!

Had wretched we for treason banisht bin,
Some would have ru'de our miserie and mone,

But flaundrous speach is such a hatefull sinne,
As flaunders falls lamented are of none :
In bookes of shame their faults are rolld alone,
Their names are scornd, their prefence ten times more ;
All filthy vice that all men thus abhore.

This resteth, then, for us unhappie men,
To leade our lives in houltes and uncouth woods,
A hollowe cave, to make our homely den,
To foyle hunger with apples, hawes, and buds ;
For nobles borne, God wot, but forrie foodes.
There we, poore we, must rue our harmes alone,
Or monsters make companions in our mone.

O friendly death ! our worldly farewell give,
From hated fleshe our loathed life divorce.
Spare them, good death, the which in pleasure live,
And use at once on us thy matchlesse force ;
To thee alone our woes fues for remorse,
When all is done our helpe remains in thee :
Then strike with speede our sorrowes for to free.

In praise of the right H. the Ladie I. S. G. of Wilton.

Where love affects, or flatterie forgeth praise,
There fayles no will faire ladies fames to wray ;
But art I lacke such parciall notes to raise,
Truth guardes the checke in what I write or say,
And warded thus, when all their wit is showne,
I boldly vaunt (although in barren verse)
This ladie stains, their ladies everie one,

She shewes in workes what they in wordes rehearse :
Past natures reach (a gift in great imprise)
Her faultlesse life puts flaunder to his shifts,
And yet she hath what nature could devise
To set a glosse upon her gallant gifts ;
Besides all this, she hath such fortune lent,
As both commends, and doth her selfe content.

In praise of my L. E. R.

The pearles of praise that decke a noble dame,
Exceede the price of any juellers showe,
Yea, beauties gifts are but a glosse of fame,
In vertues foyle these precious juels growe,
And that the dame, whome I do here commend,
Hath store of both my able prooffe attend.

A passing wit is lodged in her head,
The which is deckt with haire of golden hewe,
Her modest eyes are fild with gasses lead,
And yet they staine bright diamonds in viewe ;
Her words of worth doth win her tounge such praise,
As when she speakes the wisest silent staves.

Besides her shape, which fightly is in shewe,
Her mynd is with these noble gifts possesse,
Her bountie doth beyond her beautie goe,
A care she hath to ease the thrall distrest :
Thus is she deckt, and this is she, I say,
That weares and beares these pearles of praise away.

In praise of my L. Cecil of Burleigh.

The cruell warres that Nature long did move,
By force to plucke good vertue from her throne,
Appeas'd in peace, to shewe the fruits of love,
Of precious mould, kynde faults to worke anon,
And having shapt this seemely dame of clay,
For vertues helpe she sent her straight away.

When vertue viewd dame Natures worthy skill,
With great delight she kist this ladies face,
And then (to shewe that Nature wisht her will)
She posted to her treasure house of grace,
Her golden shewes, where she, good ladie, spoyles
To decke this dame: thus was she both their toyles.

And with these gifts into the world she came,
Whereas she doth in worthy credite rest;
Yea, sure her life so beautifieth her name,
As envie graunts (who fildome sayes the best)
Her wit, her weedes, her words, her workes and all
So modest are, as flaunder yealdes her thrall.

In praise of Maistresse M. H. now Bridges.

Beautie with brags of late wild vertue yeald her thrall,
But soone the Gods, to stay their strife, a parlement did call,
And fame with thundring tromp was wild their subjects cite,
By credite of their thralls to shew who was of greatest might.
Beautie against this day her prowdest shewes prepar'd,

And fure a troupe of gallant gyrles her seemely felfe did
gard :

Their spangels wrought a gase, eche dame in feathers flauntes,
Their straung attyres, their cuts and cost, foreshewd their
scorneful vaunts.

They looked all askaunce, when beautie claymde her right,
That loe! the Gods amased were to see so proude a fight.
Anon good vertue comes, with traine of bashfull dames,
Whose modest looks wrought more regard then beauties
blasing flames.

A silence now was made, that they their futes might move,
Both ladies sue for foveraigne rule, and thus their titles prove:
Proud beautie vaunts on powre, poore vertue on defart,
And, by your leave, for all her bragges, the worst had
beauties part.

Her shoves were blemisht much with surfling and such like,
Which knowne, beautie (through feare of foyle) into a mase
did strike.

Who, gasing rounde about, faire Brydges did espie,
Whose seemely feature, forme, and shape, did much delight
her eye ;

And, scorning other prooffe, she Bridges calld in place ;
Who (to sett foorth her fightly felfe) apeard with bashfull
grace.

Quoth beautie, See my toyle ! you Gods, now judge aright ;
Halfe part with you, quoth Vertue streight ; my gifts adorne
this wight ;

For bountie guides her thought, which beautie farre excells,
And pittie rules her noble heart, where pride in beautie
dwells :

To love and lawlesse lust, where beauties lures doe traine,

She winns a calme, yet friendship firme, with showe of chafte
disdaine.

A meane contents her minde, where beautie is extreame,
What botes thee then, good Beautie, thus to strive against
the streame?

She onely shall suffice, if thereto thou agree,
To showe and prove, by dome of Jove, the best of thee or
mee.

I will (quoth Beautie) stand to that that Jove awards.
Jove, waying wel their worthie worke, thus both their toile
rewards.

Hee ruled, Vertue should be al wayes best in name,
Yet Beautie during Bridges life should sway in equal fame.
Loe! thus betweene these dames the bloudie frays did seace,
But Bridges bore the praise away for making of this peace.

The praise of Mistresse A. C.

If Troyians floute that fought in Hellens band,
Small wayd their lives their lady to preserve,
What doubt, what death, what hell should mee withstand,
To worke C. will the captaine that I serve,
Who doth in deede as farre fayre Hellen passe,
As good doth bad, or gold the corsest brasse.

For first she hath in feature, forme and face,
What Hellen had, or beautie could devise;
And therewithall she hath so chaste a grace,
To hold them backe with fancies fonde that fries,
That (loe!) they choose to pine in secrete paine,
Before their futes should move her to disdaine.

She shoves them grace that sorrowes their amis,
Beyond desert her bountie doth reward,
Her modest minde by vertue guided is,
Her sober lookes doth worke a rare regard :
Although in court her rouse is hie, shee knowes,
Yet likes shee not to feede on curious shoves.

A care shee hath (which shoves a loving wife)
To love and like but what contents her fere ;
With these good giftes commended is her life :
Such one is C. whom I have praised here.
Even shee is shee, denie it who that dare,
That doth both kinds, and vertues jewels ware.

In praise of Mistrresse A. H.

Vaine is the vaunt that runnes beyond desert,
Small is the praise that proove will not commend,
Shame is their fall that mounteth fames by arte,
Truth is the gard that writers doth defend ;
And trueth I have my naked verse to clothe,
But skill I want this pearelesse peece to praise ;
In fairenes who doth passe the dame, in troth,
Whose beautie wrought the Troyans bloudye fraies.
Withal to shove what nature did pretend
In framing her an endlesse fame to finde,
She wrought such meanes as vertue doth commend,
Her gallant shape, with worthy giftes of minde :
What would you more then faire and vertuous both ?

That both she is, but search where shee doth live,
(Beyond my reach) report their telling troth,
This modest mayde a matchlesse praise doth give.
Loe! this is al (though further would my will)
I write of her, for want of able skill.

The saucie pefaunts present unto his soveraigne mistresse.

Lady, receive thy pefaunts gift in gree,
(Whose will is much, although his worth be small)
A gift it is that best befeemeth thee,
Whose vertues hould thy beauties rare in thrall;
So that, sith that you live without a match,
Garde you your fame with this well meaning watch.

Thinke that you live in gafe of envies eyes,
Whose fight doth search in secretst thought of minde:
Thinke false suspect about you still hath spies,
Will forge offence where they no fault can finde:
Thinke deepe disdaine would blot your life with blame,
For that alone you weare the pearlesse of fame.

And yet, fayre dame, (incountring all their might)
These following rules, if you imprint in minde,
Your envious foes shall pine away with spite.
First choose a friend, whose wordes in workes you finde;
With courtesie a straunger intertaine,
But loving futes cutt off with chaste disdaine.

Thinke fugred wordes as Syrens songes do wound:
All is not gold in sight that feemeth gay;

In carelesse trust is ever treason found :
 Then, shunne the baites that philed tongues do lay
 With proude revenge racke not your yeelding foe,
 Left nettles doe amonge fweete flowers groe.

Mount with your minde by vertue to the skies ;
 Vaile not your eares the myfers mone to heare ;
 From all extreames, in spite of envies spies,
 In calme delight your dayes so shal you weare.
 Thus (sovereigne) ends your faucie pefaulnts songe,
 Accept it well, or else you do him wronge.

EPILOGUS.

Loe, ladies ! heare (if you can use it well)
 An Arbour fenst from burning fire and frost ;
 A place it is where pride shall never dwell,
 Nor fortune worke a mase, doe shee her worst ;
 A place wherein the worthie dame should live,
 Whom no extreame may change from vertuous thought :
 Even such a place, my Muse (faire dames) doth give
 To you, the which with double toile is wrought.
 Here may you see, by lampes of other lives,
 A president to live in worthie name ;
 Here may you see, when death your dayes deprives,
 In spight of death remembraunce of your fame.

Virescit vulnere virtus.

The Ortchard of Repentance:

*Wherein is reported the miseries of dice,
the mischiefes of quarelling, and
the fall of prodigalitie.*

Wherein is discovered the deceits of
all fortes of people.

Wherein is reported the fouden endes of
foure notable Coufiners.

With divers other discourses necessarie for all
fortes of men. The whole worke the
invention and collection of
GEORGE WHETSTONS Gent.

Formæ nulla fides.

TO THE RIGHT WOR-
shipfull, Sir Thomas Cicill, knight,
GEORGE WHETSTONS
wifheth advauncement to honor,
according to his wor-
thineffe.

RIGHTE worshipfull, waying howe deeply bothe my good mother, and all her children are bounde unto you for received friendships, among the rest (acknowledging your desire of my well doing) I have fought howe (for suche benefites) to avoyde the vile vice of ingratitude, an offence so horrible, that the Lacedemonians punished it with death; and resolved that a thankfull mynd was all the recompence that both you did expect, and I could make; and also assured, that if any of us (won with your counfeling precepts) intertained convenient times with profitable and vertuous exercises, the newes wold be as acceptable to you, as our indevours beneficiall to us. So that, to fatisfie you in both (as touching my owne selfe) I humbly submit unto your learned censure this one part of my unlearned labors, intituled the *Ortchard of Repentaunce*. My intent (as concerning the worke) I am assured deserves an honest report, how so the homely handling thereof content curious judges. But for that I am assured, that no man writes without some reprehension, I am nothing dismayde with such nice find-

faultes misliking. Sufficeth me, if the learned and wel disposed, take my paines in worth : among the which, I chiefly seeke to please your worship, the authoritie of whose patronage will bothe defende and commend my travell, desiring you to take it as a testimonie of the faithfull zeale I beare towardses you ; and being encouraged with your favourable acceptance, I will not faile (God willing) to enterprise some worke that shall better deserve your countenance, content the reader, and commend my paines. From my lodging in Holborne, where I dayly pray for the prosperous health and hap, both of you, and your good lady. The 15 of October 1576.

Your worships most bounden,

G. WHETSTONS.

THE ORTCHARD OF REPENTAUNCE.

*The honest minded mans adventures, his largesse, and his
farewell to the world ; a worke discovering the sub-
tilties of all sortes of men.*

Repyne not, friends, to view the forme of scorne,
Skew not to see a figure fresh of ruth,
A crooked peece with withered age forworne,
In drouping dayes whome beggerie pursuth,
A forrie crop for seede of all his youth,
Who moylde, who toyld, who gaped after gaine,
When losse enfude ; a poore reward for paine.

2. Though straunge at first my tale may seeme in fight,
Yet, wysely wayde, the cause appeareth playne,
Why backward hap my forward hope did quite,
Why losse I found, where I did looke for gayne ;
Why povertie I reapt in lue of paine ;
For trye who list, and he by prooffe shall see,
With honest myndes the world will hardly gree :

The kingdom
of the world
described.

The devils
officers.

3. Which of it felfe a kingdome is of finne,
The devill is prince, whose pomp doth never fade ;
Deceite and craft his chiefeft counsellers bin,
Extortion foule his treasurer is made :
Covetousnesse is merchant of his trade ;
Vile usurie his racking rents doth rake,
As auditour account doth briberie take.

4. Within his court these vipers beareth fway :
First false suspect high chamberlain they call,
Who raps them down which mount by honest way.
Disdaine controuls the wightes which be in thral ;
Then grudge, the garde, doth place them in the hal ;
Mistrust and spight doth dayly watch and ward,
And malice is the captaine of the garde.
5. Envie and Hate, the prefence doore doth keepe,
Which elvish elves dame Vertue still deryde,
Or if she knocke, the fottes will be a sleepe.
Next to the diuel the court doth Lecherie guyde,
On whom attends dame Pleasure, Lust, and Pryde :
What office beares the glutton with the rest,
Or drunken sot, to shewe it were a jest.
6. Debate and strife, the coastes doth dayly scowre,
Well meaning mynds to see they do repyne ;
Though fortune laugh, the world on them doth lowre :
Her subjects sleepe, and snore like fatted swyne,
When hunger stervde with want the vertuous pyne.
No wonder though they leade this lothsome life,
For worldly rule with vertue is at strife.
7. But I too long do tyre you with this tale,
To wray the rule the worldly wretches have,
Who bath in blisse, when others boyle in bale,
Who do commaund, when others gladly crave ;
Yet shame and all they leave to fill their grave.
I ment, and meane, to shewe his overthrowe,
Whose honest mynd became his chieftest foe.

His first ad-
venture in the
court.

The flatterer
thriveth in the
court.

Note.

An unkind
recompence.

8. I first by cost did seeke in court to mount,
A needefull helpe in court to purchase grace ;
But fowly shorth I fell upon account :
I quite forgot to flatter and to face,
The thrall to scorne, the best for to imbrace.
I fu'd, I ferv'd, I did attendance daunce,
And still, I thought, defart would me advaunce.

9. I lookt aloft, and brav'd it with the best :
The charge mine owne, no countnance did I lacke,
Whilest pence were ryfe I was a welcome gueft :
I ayded those whom spitefull scorne did sacke,
Which one advaunst were first that threwe me backe.
With conges kynde the gallants would me greete,
With cap and knee the meaner did me meete.

10. The sneaking cures by bryberie layd a traine,
A myle to catch before they fell the crumbes :
I thought defart perforce would fasten gaine
On me, which gape but gained nought but plumbes,
For former graunts still nickt me oore the thumbes ;
The drawlatch thriv'd, my selfe who helpt to grace,
As well as he which bare the proudest face.

11. Ne envide I of either part the thrift,
Since fortune smylde upon the filly lot :
I thought aloft no doubt she would me lift ;
So spent in hope, for feare I spared not,
By cost I sayd that worship still was got ;
But I so long did spende upon the store,
That all was gone : then could I spend no more.

12. Then countnance straight with fower face did frowne,
And credite next began to slip aside,
Disdaine and spight with speede then threwe me downe.
In this distresse whom earst I helpt I tryde,
Who gave good words, but no reliefe applyde :
Thus, quight forfooke, I in the briers stucke,
And cryde perforce a vengeance of yll lucke !

Forfake brave-
rie, and leve
thy credite in
the court.

13. I thought mishap my fortune did withstand,
And meere good hap to others gaine assignde :
I little thought that item in the hand,
Remembrance was, a friend in court to finde ;
Or some for some could leade a stately mynde,
Ne flatterie, I did feare, should be prefarde,
Ere service true had reapt his full rewarde.

14. I could not thinke the court two faces had,
In favour faire, fresh, sweete, fraught with delight,
When in disgrace the wrongside turnes as sad,
Sullen, fowre, sharpe, the shewe of deepe despight,
As fyrens fongs bewitch the simple wight :
I quite forgot, in short, to shewe you plaine,
The proverb old, faire words do make fooles faine.

Description of
the court.

15. I simply ment, but subtlly was beguilde.
A crocodile deceives with fained teares,
But pray obtaind, it turnes to monster wilde.
With sayned friends, in fine, even so it fares,
Which snarled be in froward fortunes snares :
They crouch and creepe til they have that they wish ;
In your distresse they wey you not a rush.

Fained
friends.

16. But certes, they which never tasted bale,
 Persuaded be that all men bathe in blis,
 So fure he thinkes, truth seemes each sugred tale,
 Whose honest mynd did never meane amis ;
 The speach of craft he counts a mockerie is :
 Both losse and gaine (he faith) doth fortune give,
 And still he hopes on after hap to live.

17. My felfe the prooffe, which reactt my courtly fal,
 A backward blast, a fit of froward fate.
 Some other way to hap she would me call,
 With double mendes to vaunce my poore estate :
 As gleames of joy do follow cloudes of hate,
 Thus lights I held (bewitched with faire wordes)
 Or busshes beate while other lymde the byrdes.

18. I still reliev'd the wights that were distrest,
 Although they would they could do me no good ;
 Which cold excuse foone cutt off my request :
 A night cap, fure, or else a lyned hooode,
 Beseemde my skonce. I fware by sweete S. Roode,
 Which, like a foole, on would and could did feede,
 When simple I with deede reliev'd their neede.

Miserie can
 hardly winne
 the vertuous to
 vice.

19. These harshards hard might honest mindes defile :
 What harvest worfe then weedes to reape for corne ?
 But though the lewde do laugh if fortune smile,
 And frowne as fast, if that the fyxfen scorne,
 Yet wealth, ne woe, no friendly minde can turne :
 For happ they leave no honest way unfought,
 But feedes on hope by value of their thought.

20. Wel, thus perforce, I left the costly court :
Hie time to trudge when coine and clothes were spent.
The fouldiers gaine was rounge with sweete report,
By them which wist not what their loffes ment.
At ventures yet to see the warres I went,
Resolv'd by them to rise or leese my breath,
For servile life I worse despisde then death.

21. Appointed well, and fouldier like arayde,
I left my friends, and throngd amid my foes.
Although at first the thundring shott mee frayde,
In fine, faunce feare I lent such lustie blowes,
That foone my fame throughout the campe arose :
With better pay to credite then I grue,
And thus a flaunte to care I badde adue.

His seconde
adventure in
the warres.

22. In desperate frayes gave charge my band and I,
By manly force our eager foes to foyle :
Not one then flie, but rather chus'de to die,
And where they foyld, I let them fleece the spoyle ;
For trueth to fay, that tythe deservde their toyle.
I never nickt the poorest of his pay,
But if hee lackt, hee had before his day.

23. They cheerisht thus, when neede inforst them fight,
On foes they flewe in face of all the shott,
As wolves the sheepe doe spoile or fore affright,
Their enimies foe did flie, or goe to pott,
Such lyll they layde upon their pates, Got wott.
Sith fame I reapt thus by their restlesse paine,
I could not choose but let them gleane the gaine.

A good capi-
taine makes
good fouldiers.

24. Such was my hap to reach the honour still,
 In hie attempts I gave the overthrowe.
 Thus fortune long did frame unto my will,
 But I forgot how soone thee playes the shrowe,
 Even where of late thee favour most did showe:
 I overslipt the time that serv'd for thrift,
 As though the warres ne did their chaunces shift.

25. In poore repastes, whose courtesie is such
 To leave to cut, till lurchers old have carv'd,
 They seeldome fay shall surfet of too much,
 Yet haply may with want be hunger starv'd.
 Who so in spoile so stayes till all be serv'd,
 Besides his blowes an easie burthen beares:
 Each for himselfe, where souldiers shift and shares.

26. But whilst I stode in fickle fortunes grace,
 And swam in wealth, of want I never thought:
 I toke no heede how age drewe on a pace,
 Or brused bones at home for safetie fought,
 To live uppon the gaine that youth had caught,
 But when I could, sith then I would not thrive,
 When faine I would, then could with me did strive.

Sowre fauce
 of sweete war.

27. For when the warres my chieftest strength had worne,
 When wounded flesh did faint at bloudy blowes;
 When fortune thwart her fawning face did turne,
 When faithfull friendes were reft by by raging foes,
 When foule debate amonge our souldiers rose,
 When treason foyld where force could never speede,
 When hollowe heartes did droupe away at neede.

28. When thus of warres I felt the fower taste,
Which seemed sweete by speach I heard of yore,
Forworne with toile, I homewards trudgft in hafte,
My skinne well paide with woundes and brufes fore,
But fure of pence, I had but slender store :
Thus did I spend the time that servde for thrift,
And left old age in drowping dayes to shift.

29. Yet fimple I did thus perfuade my minde,
How that the warres do naught but honour yeeld,
And coft in court did caft mee farre behinde,
My way to thrive was tilling of the feeld ;
A charge, God wott, unmeete for mee to wield ;
A farmer fresh, I fell then to the plow,
And cofte abridgft, yet cares I had ynow.

His last adventure in the
countrie made
him a flarke
begger.

30. I then did trust the trueth of every fwayne,
And thought that I a fight of lubbers kept,
When others houfd, my hay lay fowft in raine,
My corne did fhead before the fame was reapt,
Or fpoild with beaftes, whilst lasie Robin slept,
I bought at worft, yet fould I under foote ;
A poore increafe can fpring of fuch a roote.

Vll fervaunts.

31. Thus long with losse the farmer ftoute I playde,
Till out of houle and home pure neede mee preft.
With beggerie bitt then was I fore difmayd,
To trie my friendes yet I my felfe addrest,
With fquaymish lookes, who intertaine their gueft
With fower showes : my want could well endure,
For fmall reliefe then none was better fure.

An old pro-
verb, beggers
muft be no
choofers.

In what contempt the rich
have their
poore friends.

32. In what I could my host then did I please,
With quippes, and nippes, who cutt mee ore the thumbes ;
But floutes in faith could not mee so disease,
That from the borde I gathered not the crumbes ;
For poore men pincht are glad to pray on plumbes.
Hayted and baited time thus did I weare,
Hard lodgde, worfe clothd, not cloyd with costly fare,

This companion
was craft.

33. And fettered thus (God wot) in chaynes of woe,
I sleeping once, mee thought before my vew
A mate I sawe, that earst I did not knowe :
God speede (quoth hee) ; quoth I, the like to you.
Acquainted thus, such friendship did infue,
As I to him my former fortunes shoue,
My hap, my harme, my want, my weale, my woe :

34. Which to discourse a tedious tale I tould,
Which well hee marckt, and fmyled in his thought.
Good friend, hee said, thou waxest very ould,
For whom foresight some succour should have fought ;
But well I see thou youth hath spared nought ;
Yet all thy life thou moyldst and toyldst for gaine :
Hard was thy hap, that losse still aunfweard paine.

35. No fortune yet, but follie in thy selfe,
That losse thou reapst in recompence of paine :
Thy course was wrounge, a pace to prowle up pelfe,
For falsehoode must, or flattery compasse gaine,
Or else, in faith, thy moyling is in vaine :
Deferte is dasde, with dyrefull envies driftes,
And honest mindes are put unto their shiftes.

36. But listen well, and I will shortly shoue
How that thy want in drowping dayes shall die.
The way I know how every state doth growe,
From base degree to wealth and honour hie;
Thy conscience yet must beare with briberie,
With falsehoode, fraude, feare not to use deceites,
To fishe for wealth those are the sweetest baites.

Lewde coun-
fell.

37. If thou doest love a faithlesse priest to bee,
If courtiers life in thee hath lyking wrought,
In merchautes fraude if thou wouldst deeply fee,
If lawyers gaine doth tempt thy greedie thought,
If through the warres aloft thou wouldst be brought,
In countrie cares if thou wouldst beate thy braine,
If cheters craft, thou weanst, is full of gaine.

38. If by these trades releefe thou meanst to reape,
Doe thus and thus, and thou with wealth shalt swell.
With that hee wrayed of huge deceiptes a heape,
The least whereof would fend a man to hell.
At which amafde, (quoth I) Good frend, farewell,
I like thee not; thy counsell is full evill:
I lived well, I will not die a devill.

39. At which adue my mate to figh I fawe,
Who forrie was hee had bestowde such talke
On mee, whose tale to no deceite could drawe;
And in this chafe away the man did walke;
And waking then, I up and downe did stalke,
Who in my felfe did finde a hell of thought,
To see what wyles to compasse wealth are wrought.

Note.

Defire of goods
draw our
minde from
goodnes.

The remem-
braunce of
death, hinder-
eth us from
wickednes.

The godly con-
temne riches,
compaffed by
deceite.

40. Defire of wealth forthwith my heart did wound,
My honest minde did blame my greedie veyne ;
Thus in my felfe a heape of harmes I found,
Afraide of fraude, yet glad to compaffe gaine :
Thus both I blamde, and thankt the coufiners paine ;
But as by chaunce, I looking in my glasse,
Mee thought I faw how death by mee did paffe.

41. With that (quoth I) away with golden glee !
Avaunt defire of greedie gathering gaine !
Wouldst thou him binde which whilome lived free ?
Away ! goe trudge, thy toying is in vaine :
The world I fcorne with my sweete Chrif to raine,
No fubject I of Sathans empire ame,
Chrift is my leage, to ferve the devill I fhame.

A Larges to the world.

The know-
ledge of de-
ceite is neces-
sarie for the
good.

A large larges.

The cleargi.

42. My knowledge yet, unto the world yknowne,
May haply warne my friends to fhunne this baite.
Amonge the lewde this feede is hugely fowne,
They daily take this bitter sweete receite ;
For why, their foode is rapine and deceite.
My larges yet to all I franckly give,
Within this world that have defire to live.

43. The cleargie they no worldly creatures are :
They coft contemne, their weedes but homely bee,
Heaven feedes their foules, their paunche hath pouer fare,
They goodes despife, but what with Scriptures gree,
To helpe the poore whose want they daily fee ;
Well, thefe I fee, esteemeth not my gift ;
To get their thanks, and have I neare a fhift ?

44. Yes, yes forfooth (wel fare the fruits of fraud)
They wedded are (a needefull helpe gainst sinne)
Their sonnes full oft defireth more a gaude,
Then at their bookes their fathers fame to winne,
Their daughters scorne to knit, to card, or spinne :
They gentles are, as brave as is the best,
They royst in filkes, and gad to every feast.

45. With smal expence this pride is not maintaind,
And when you die your lyving bids adue.
If naught you spare, their braverie then is staind,
They must forsake their wonted courtly crue,
Or make some shift, though shame thereof infue :
Which to prevent, this counfel craft doth give,
To proule for them, whilst you in wealth do live.

46. Scorne you the Pope ? scorne not to clawe his coine ;
His titles leave ; leafe not the felfe fame gaine,
(You colours have) how so you pence purloine.
Decayed schooles you may erect againe,
You may relieve the needie myfers paine,
With many moe, whom penurie doth pearce
For lacke of skill, which scapes my worthlesse vearse.

47. The courtier hee will thanke mee for my gift.
Hee spendeth much, yet little hath to spend ;
Some say, this course doth feeldome compasse thrift,
Yet freely here his state for to amend,
To bragge it out in bravery to the end,
The courtier younge a leffon loe ! I tell :
The elder fort doth knowe the forme full well.

The courtier.

48. For credite fake you needes must bravely serve,
And credite wonne is quickly worne away :
Get up your crumbes, therfore, ere grace doth fwerve ;
Fawne still on them that beare the greatest sway,
Attendaunce daunce when others plie their play,
The mightiest please, how so their mindes are ledde :
For wisest wittes with some conceites are fedde.

49. With lawyer soone see thou thy selfe acquaint,
Which knowes what giftes are in the princes handes,
What lyes conceald by reason of attaint,
What fee, what farme, amonge his leages landes,
Drawes to an end, that clarkly understandes,
What office yeeldes a gaine above the rest,
What penall lawe to begge for thee is best.

50. Who finely drawes a pattent for a neede,
And pattents see you alwayes have in store,
A time may serve, when haply you may speede,
Which fitted not so well a yeare before ;
And by the way, this care have evermore,
Well to foresee to whom you wray your minde,
Least in your futes you slender favour finde.

51. Your charge is great, shift therefore for your selfe,
For facion fake yet flatter to their face,
But use no course in prowling up of pelfe,
And if mishappe doth throw one out of grace,
Bee readie preast to prease into his place ;
For why, your joy comes by your neighbours thrall,
Then be not nyce to rise where hee doth fall.

52. The souldier stoute, whom fortune still doth tosse, The souldier.
To shadowe fraude forsothe hath fynest shoe :
His sweetest gaynes are sawste with sower losse,
Yea, life full oft to reach releefe must goe :
Here faintes his friend, there fightes his mortall foe,
Here bulletes towze at unawares him meete,
There hawlberds hewe, here bilmen doth him greete.

53. If in this dole hee chaunce to reach a rap,
In faith, at home hee findes a could releefe,
Best therefore then, whilst fortune fittes for hap,
Hee shift for one, for feare of future greefe :
The souldier once is never tearmde a theefe,
How so hee wronges, how so hee spoyles and spends,
And reason good, his life oft makes amends.

54. The poorer fort yet seeldome compasse thrift,
To helpe whose want Maist. Craft doth use this way,
(A prettie helpe) for such as love to shift ;
To watch and ward to filche his fellowes pray,
To sacke the wight that gladly would obey,
To spoile his friend, as one hee doth not knowe,
If ought be said, hee toke him for his foe.

55. But now to you which have both charge and sway :
You must be brave for fame and credite fake,
Yet must you pinch no souldier of his pay,
Left nipt with neede (poore slave) his heeles hee take,
In heate of blowes before his head doth ake ;
What then ? (well kept) a few will do more good,
Then store of lowtes, which feare to loose their blood.

56. Dead payes will helpe to cheerish all the rest,
 And likewise you shall finde therein some gaine ;
 And when to filch your souldiers are addrest,
 Fleese you their pray, then chide them for their paine
 For stragling out from resdue of their traine ;
 Ne spare to spoile when force doth faile your foe :
 Take time and tide, leaft fortune play the shroe.

The lawyer.

57. The lawyer hee, with doubtess that dulls his braine
 For tenne yeares space, his time in studie spends,
 Ere practise his doth purchase stoare of gaine ;
 Too long a plague, so long to fawne on friends,
 And spend on stoare in hope of after mends ;
 And therefore, sure, *deceite deserves no curse*,
 For working meanes meane while to fill his purse.

58. And yet, in footh, a grote will buy his gift,
 A booke of notes, remembraunce 'tis to ease,
 Wherein is writ full many a prettie shift ;
Post facto stuf, and *non est factum* please,
 By larger grauntes, the lease away to fease,
 Conditioned releases how to frame,
 By former wordes the latter for to lame.

59. Such quilletts nyce, when thus you noted have,
 Some practise needes must print them in your thought ;
 Set such at lawe, in words as late but strave,
 And when they both in backhouse ditch are brought,
 To poule them both let some devise be wrought .
 Forget not this when writings hit your hand,
 (If youthes them owe) with doubtess to lame his land.

60. With hope of gaine his greedy minde else move
To voyde some graunt, or worke some leases wracke :
A leafe of trust then must the title prove,
At leasure yet this timelesse trust turne backe,
Your interest small, his greatest right will facke ;
For once in prooffe, this proverbe still doth last,
A little lyme *a foule will fetter fast.*

61. Physicians now, that weyes how weake wee are,
Newe cures must search, our griefes are now so straunge :
Old Gallens drugges our time unfitteth farre,
Augmented then, his cures abroad must raunge ;
For healthlesse men on every hope will chaunge,
But once retheynde, be sure thou use this course,
Another blame, although thy felfe be worfe.

Physicians.

62. See your receites some lightning yeeld at first,
To worke conceites within your patients thought ;
Persuade him still his paine is at the worst,
Yet heale and harme, till wished gaine be wrought ;
But for the poore, see some releefe be fought,
And for your paines, let rich men (greeved) pay :
No cure performde, your custome will decay.

The practife
of a lewde
phyfician.

63. But now to you whom office doth advaunce,
For your behoofe I (forst) imploy my paine ;
You come *devaunt*, uppon a forrie chaunce,
Yea, stocke you set uppon a tickle maine,
Durant le vie no longer lastes your gaine,
And ere you fway, some thousand pounds must flee,
Which is not rayfde (in haft) uppon your fee.

Officers.

One officer by
honestie disco-
vereth the de-
ceites of the
lewde.

64. In tenne yeares space, five hundred ma[r]kes a yeare
Unto his heire ; who purchase not to leave,
Shall fure be blamde of myfers every where :
If truth cause lacke, most say, the rest deceave ;
If all be false, few will such faultes conceive.
Once wronge you must a thousand for this gaine,
How voyde you then the penall statutes paine ?

65. You are forbid inroulements for to rafe,
To fit your friend, or foile your hated foe,
To save old seales, to give forg'd writtes their grace,
To chaunge records, a frendly turne to showe,
For once you may both helpe and overthrowe :
Yet use you must both meanes by flie devise,
But frosted bee, for feare of flippery yfe.

A notable
cloake.

66. Provide a cloake to couler stil your crime,
Then worke your will, Apollo oft doth sleepe ;
But if your wyles do come to light in time,
To save such misse some carelesse servaunt keepe,
Plague him with blame when you the profite reape :
What if sharpe checkes do put you in some feare,
The gaine remaines the tauntes in time doth weare.

Gaylors.

67. Mas: gaylor needes must taste of this my gift :
Extortion cryes, against his yron fees.
What then ? in hould this is your onely shift,
With shackles huge your prifoners to displease ;
Thus pincht (good foules) they will pay, pray, and please :
Pence pought ne dreade, although they stoutly crake,
To use redresse poore prifoners *unde* lacke.

68. Now gallants learne, whom bravery ftill confumes,
To royst in filkes, to flaunt in coulers gay,
To pranke your wives up in their pecockes plumes,
To snuffe, to fcorne, to looke beyond your fway,
To finde a mint, to feede your mindes with play,
To hauke, to hunt, to boast, to braule, to fight,
Which are the thoughtes that feede you with delight.

Younge gentlemen.

69. This coft is more then carelefse youthes forethinke,
But coft, ne care, their hautie mindes can vaile ;
Syth not, fee fines, your farmers cofers fhrinke.
Of timber trees then ftrike the loftie faile,
The bodies next will ferve for bord and pale :
If all thefe helps your charge will not defraye,
But ftill your names in merchautes journalls ftaye,

70. To flote your mindes, if houle and land muft flee,
To two or three the fame give, graunt, and fell,
Cave emptor, to thy affuraunce fee :
Hap well, hap ill, fome speedeth pretie well,
The reft muft take their fortune as it fell ;
Shift you for one, the world to fraude is bent,
Coyne ftayes your friend, when fleering wordes are fpend.

71. Come, merchaunts, come, and take in worth my gift, Merchaunts.
Whofe lynxes eyes in younge mens ftate do prie,
Their loffe your gaine, their fpending is your thrift,
They broche your bagges till all their lyving flie :
But holla hoe ! a bug is ufurie :
Hee houldes you backe, from three times tenne to take
On morgage good, leaft no returne you make.

72. What resteth then? your coyne will rust faunce use,
 And statute loane cannot content your thought:
 Well fare a shift, both lawe and them t' abuse,
 You know in prime, each thing is easly wrought;
 The dog to draw, the horse to order brought,
 The skilleffe youth is wonne with every gaude,
 The reason is his thought is free from fraude.

Religion with-
 out devotion.

73. To worke this feate, see that you use this course.
 When dolefull knell doth bidde a churle adue,
 Send streight to know on whom death usd this force:
 Not to this end your neighbours fate to rue,
 But of his heire in hast to have a vew;
 If hee be younge, well left, and easly wonne,
 To feede his vaine fee wordes and workes be donne.

Crosbytinge,
 a cufnage un-
 der the couler
 of friendship.

74. Some prettie summe on small affuraunce lend:
 If youth be flow, at leasure bid him pay,
 Some times bestowe good counsell as his friend,
 But helpe him to ech toy to make him gay,
 To pay for all, at length, will come a day;
 By peecemeales thus in lash hee wilbe brought,
 In daunger once, let this devise be wrought.

Note this
 policie

75. Get some to rest, and vexe this thriftlesse youth,
 Not at thy fute (although by thy consent)
 To free himselfe from catchpoles litle ruth,
 For thy goodwill to thee his minde is bent,
 To mone his state, his time and coyne mispent,
 To faine thy heart to his behoofe is fixt,
 Then let advise with prettie tauntes be mixt.

76. But to conclude, lend him his turne to ferve,
Yet binde him fure, leaft hee do flip away,
In ftatutes, which lands, goods and body fterve,
Twentie to one, hee forfeits at his day :
The vauntage then will double ufaunce pay,
Extent on land, the fale will flaunder foe,
That fee, in fine, on eafie prife will goe.

Be daungerous
to enter into a
ftatute to a
marchaunt.

77. You burgofes, which fell the coftly ftuffe,
That wares to ebb our gallants goodes and land,
This leffon learne, and utter wares ynough,
Beyond the price of paying downe in hand :
His ftate and ftay, firft wifely underftand,
Clove fifted then, deliver him thy ware,
But binde him fure, if thou his paiment feare.

Burgofes.

To take ware
on truft, a
notable ufurie.

78. If day hee breake, let *commens* be no leache,
No forfeit once the citie cuftome gives ;
In the hoyftinges an outlawes note him teache,
Beare with his talke, his crakes, and yreful tauntes,
Lawe will him ftoupe in fpight of all his vauntes :
Collufion thoe, this dealing fome do reake,
Yet jumpe thou thus a penal law to breake.

A worthie
cuftom in
London.

Selling wares
on credite,
collufion.

79. Come, fcriveners, come, the frie of all abufe,
Deceite befeemes you beft of any men ;
Why blufh you fo ? you neede not frame excufe,
You are to helpe a thoufand with your pen,
Chetors, coufners, merchauntes, your felves like men :
Good reafon ; you have ftore of fubtile fkill,
Sith you are meanes each mifers bagge to fill.

Scriveners.

80. Bee fure you have the groundes of lawe by rote,
 What wordes unlose, and what as fast do binde :
 Eche quillet nyfe fee that you neerely note
 In paper booke, as tendes to fraude you finde,
 In morgages, leafes, covenantes unkinde,
 Conditions, bondes, feoffments, graunts, & *cetera*,
 In some one point the craftie jacke still play.

Monie takers.

81. For craft is that that doeth you credite gaine,
 Rich Burgofes your chiefeft clients are.
 They lay the plot, but you muft take the paine ;
 Monie takers to meash in neates of care,
 They fast, farewell, fuch will no vauntage spare.
 Thus fith your trade doth tend to falsehoode vile,
 Good reason you acquaint your felfe with guile.

Coufiners.

82. This monftrous mate had neede of thoufand shiftes,
 To feede the thoughtes of thofe whose forme he beares.
 A lawyers head hee hath, full ftuff with driftes,
 A fimple looke, to free rash youthes of feares,
 A flatterers tongue, to feede beleeving eares,
 A harlots face, to witch with wanton fight,
 A tyrauntes heart, to wound the harmleffe wight.

83. A fcriveners fift, a lackyes legge to trudge,
 A merchauntes minde, to mountaines that aspires,
 A gluttons throte, to fhewe hee is no fnudge ;
 What gaine may be ungleand this monfter then defires ?
 What youth unspoilde, whose wreake this feend confpires ?
 And fith this mate fo manyes turne muft ferve,
 This courfe, for cheates, craft willes him to obferve.

89. Firſt, flatterie, thou muſt pry abroad for pray,
Thou wily muſt eache gallauntes ſtate eſcrie,
Companion like with them thou needes muſt play;
If able youth *dice neede* to nip thou ſpie,
Unto his helpes be ſure thou have an eye,
And one ſome loſt, drawe neare and note his mone,
And proferre him ſupplie on eaſy lone.

90. Now, merchaunt, hide thy hooke in golden baite,
In plaine Johns name yet let this dealing bee,
His ſimple ſhowe will couler foule deceite;
To make falſe deedes let maiſter lawyer fee,
To get them ſeald uſe ſcriveners policie,
To meaſh him ſure let flatterie ſtill aſſay,
But be not yet to eger of your pray.

Note this
policie.

91. With friendly ſhow firſt worke him in conceite,
Then, epicure, thy bountie let him feele:
To witch his witts make myſtreſſe Mynxe a baite;
Hee ſnarled once, ryng out the couſners peale,
To forge, to raſe: ſuch ſtuffe then make him ſeale
As over ſoone will put him to his ſhift,
Noe force for that, hee might have eyde his thrift.

92. But fraude bewrayde, if wronged youth complaine,
Then, tyraunt, ſtart to ſave the reſt from ſhame.
To ſtay his ſute by catchpoles lay a trayne,
With actions huge his craſed credite lame;
In priſon popt, there is no laughing game;
There friends do faile if monie ebbeth lowe,
His ſute is cold, his lawyer wilbe flowe.

By the impri-
ſoning of the
complainant,
the couſiner
agreeth with-
out open
ſhame.

Right coufi-
ners stand
uppon their
credite.

93. Hee, nipt with neede, and reft of freedome both,
As one halfe dead, in haft will fue for eafe :
Firft make it coy, as men to greement loth,
His flaundrous plaint fo doth your trueth difpleafe,
As trial muft this foule report appeafe ;
In fine, yet come, and ere you goe agree,
And featherlefse let my yonge maifter flee.

Make shiftes.

94. An other fort of cheating mates there are,
By neede inforft, that fues to craft for ayde,
Whom thriftlefse life hath wrapt in heapes of care,
In prifon throwne, of fuccour cleane difmayde ;
Whofe wealth is worne, of friends whofe way unwayde,
Whofe hautie heartes gainft thraldome yet do fperne,
Neede workes for thefe fome shiftes to ferve their turne.

Counterfet
aftronomers.

Phifitians.

95. If any fuch ripe witte or learning have,
Want joinde with craft this counfell doth beftow,
(To flaunte it out, in outward fhew full brave)
To faine eche acte, yea, thought by art they know,
A falve for love, fooles fortunes for to fhoe,
Goods ftolne or loft with a vengeaunce for to fetch,
Or faine thou art for every grieve a leach.

Baudes.

96. But at the firft, to make your cunning knowne,
A baude or two fend pryng round about,
Where loving wormes, or fickly wightes are throwne :
Old churles fome have, fome love and reape a flout,
Some ficknes catch by keeping revell route.
To wightes thus griev'd, though slender helpe you give,
Ufe fhewe of fkil, in hope to make them live.

97. If fortune hap to hitt some heartes desire,
You neede no trumpe your knowledge for to spred,
But, by the way, give mother Bee her hire,
Then wil shee prate to bring a patch to bed,
And vouch for proofe how such and such have sped,
Although, in trueth, this shifting is but theft ;
Your coates for this the hangeman filde hath reft.

98. You holy gyrles, the hindmost in my gift,
Be formost yet in fraud and foule abuse,
While beautie lastes, in blooming yeares to shift,
For your behoofe this counsell craft doth use ;
To make it nyce, large offers to refuse,
Alooft to stand, if *Vobis* (rich) do sue :
The more you flee, the more he followes you.

Courtesians.

99. If carelesse boyes your coyneffe cannot brooke,
Such gallants win with outward shew of grace,
They swallowing up with sugred bayte the hooke,
With carelesse toyes their fancies can not chafe ;
And when you stoupe their hote desires t'imbrace,
Looke to your match : the world is full of wyle,
And well you wot, how sugred words beguile.

100. Still have an eye to beauties vading blafe,
And pry for dames which soone in prime will be :
On painted stufte though often gallants gafe,
The wily sort your furling straight will see,
To fit their turnes sticke not to play the bee ;
Scorne not for gaine in age to holde the doore :
They once were yong that were your baudes before.

Painting, may
helpe a cour-
tesian, but ther
end is a baude
and a begger.

101. And now (my larges given) farewell foule guile,
 Farewel (O world!) no wile shal make me rich.
 My mynd abhorres welth won by falshoods vyle,
 To mount by fraud, I loth such loftie pitch,
 I can not scratch the harmeleffe ere they itch;
 If due defart, proude Flatterie pyneth still,
 I list not fawne, play hypocrite that will.

His farewell
 to the world,
 a degreſſion
 that ſhewes
 a[n end]
 of all this
 covetouſneſſe.

102. Fare wel, fare wel (O world!) farewell againe,
 Thou now, God wot, from wonted courſe doeſt reele.
 The clergie once in preaching tooke great paine,
 Whoſe words in works bare witnes of their zeale;
 Moſt now in words, but few in works reveale,
 They teach with tounge, when thought on tything is:
 O wicked world! thy wealth is cauſe of this.

103. O world accuſt! in court thou fetteſt pryde,
 Whoſe mynions are fraude, flatterie, and diſdaine;
 They pyne defart, before his truth be tryde,
 They forge offence, well meaning mindes to ſtaine:
 They caſt at al, yet ſildome loſe amaine.
 Wo worth the world! thy braverie works the wracke
 Of ſuch in court as well deſerve and lacke.

104. The ſouldier ſtout, foreſeeing ſmall reliefe
 For ſervice doone, if ſpoyled home he comes,
 Is forſt to play, no ſouldier but the theefe;
 When fortune fits to gather up his crumbes,
 For once at home, poore ſtore of pence he thumbes.
 O world! thy wealth with rulers worketh ſo,
 As what they have, they hardly will forgo.

105. The lawe, first made to weede out wrongs for right,
To yeald amends unto the poore opprest,
Is wrested nowe for favour or for spight ;
Nowe monie so corrupts the lawyers breast,
That daying is for poore mens suits the best :
Yea, such effects in worldly mucke doth lurke,
As judges harme where helpe they ought to worke.

Arbitriment
best for poore
men.

106. Fine fare and flouth diseases strange do breede,
And grieved wights will spare no cost for ease ;
But golden fees so doth physicians feede,
As feelde or nere, they rich mens paines appease :
With drinks and drugs, they still do them displease.
O wicked world ! thy welth first wrought their grief,
Thy wealth againe doth hinder their reliefe.

107. Desire of gaine make offices so leape,
As solde they be, not given who best deserves ;
Who buyeth deare feelde thrives by felling cheape,
Who wrongeth yet from honest getting swerves ;
No force for that, fewe nowe such course observes :
Thus pelfe (O world !) first makes the *doner* toule,
To leavie mendes the *done* needes must poule.

108. Each pleasant paine, each sweete inticing fowre,
O world ! thou workst our wanton yeres to witch,
And not content we should our selves devour,
But churles thou sett'st to clawe us ere we itch :
Thou burnst the byrde, and bastes the bacon flitch.
O spiteful world ! thou hap frank harts dost grutch,
And grieveest churles by giving of too much.

Ufurie a newe
trade of mer-
chandise.

109. The merchant once bent all his care to fease,
In forreine foyle he fought desired gaine ;
Then was his toyle to common wealth an ease,
And he deserv'd his wifh in lue of paine,
But nowe at home he findes a sweeter vaine :
Sance venter nowe he will in wealth abound.
Foule fall the wight this fecond trade that found !

Coufiners not
with out
friends of
calling.

110. The reachlesse heede youthes have in large expence,
To flaunt it out their cost, no care to thrive,
Inticeth churles with shewe of good pretence,
In prime of pride their maintnace to deprive ;
For lymed once, small bootes (the wrong'd) to strive :
Right coufiners have such helpes and friends at neede,
As straunge it is to see how cleare they speede.

111. Thy pryde, O world ! doth breed such wanton thought,
As most men nowe receive dame Venus hyre,
To stoupe faire dames such sharp assaults are fought,
Such proffers large, such wiles to winne desire,
As wonder t' is what fortes are set on fire :
Who finneth not is such a gnawing bone,
To raise this siege that fewe will throwe a stone.

112. Fye on the world ! fye on thy foule deceites ;
Fye on thy fraude, thy flatterie, and thy pryde !
Fye on thy shifts, thy subtilties, and sleites ;
Fye on thy cloakes thy filthy crimes to hyde :
Adieu, adieu ! I can thee not abyde.
And thee, O God ! for evermore I laude,
For keeping me untainted so with fraude.

113. For though I have confumd my dayes in thrall,
Now death drawes neere, my count is quickly made ;
And well I wot, death doth all forts appall,
The prince, the poore, yea men of every trade :
Who lewdly lives with recknings huge is lade ;
Thus worldlings grieve, where mine doth eb, doth flowe,
A forrie sweete to end with fowre woe.

A comfort to
the godly in
miferie.

114. Through conscience I feele no thought of hell,
I conquer'd have of dreadful death the feare :
Where is thy fting, where doth thy furie dwell ?
Where is thy force (O Death !) wher is thy speare ?
Affault fay I ; that with my Chrifte I were !
I ready am, but evening, noone, and morne,
The divell, the world, and all their works I fcorne.

A bolde
challenge.

Lenvoy.

115. You worldlings, chiefe to you this tale I tell,
God graunt my words be to your woundes a leache.
The fruites of fraude, untold, you knowe too well,
Yea, better then my naked Mufe can teach ;
But to this end this dririe plaintes I preach,
That henceforth you to getting have fuch eye,
As you may live as though you dayly dye.

116. And leaft the lewde fould wrefte my worde amis,
I do exempt the good of every trade,
The which, I trust, will not repine at this ;
To fhew thy praife this checking verfe was made :
The clergie firft, at whome a glaunce I had,
Of them there be great ftore of preachers good,
To fhewe the truth that will not spare their blood.

117. There are in court that live in worthy fame,
 And well deserve renounè and credite both :
 Some officers will take no bribes for shame,
 Some laweyers are to fowe diffention loth ;
 And citizens, with whome I seemde so wroth,
 I needes must graunt (how so my Muse did square)
 Of every trade a number honest are.

118. The fouldier now, whom I do honour much,
 (How so I toucht) their faults that do offend,
 I graunt we have of noble fouldiers such,
 (As maimes to fame) that will those vices shend :
 I blame none such, the rest I with amend.
 Phyicians good (as many fure there be)
 Will not repine the lewde reprov'd to see.

119. How so I toucht some scriveners faults at quicke,
 There are of those I knowe of honest fame :
 Such have no cause against my Muse to kicke,
 Nor yet the lewde, that wisely weyes the fame ;
 I blase abuse, yet touch no creatures name :
 Yea, to be short, I nypt no sort of men,
 That truly can with malice charge my pen.

Veritas non querit angulos.

*G. W. opinion of trades (as touching gaine) written to his
 especiall friend, maister R. C.*

Mine owne good friend, since thou so faine wouldst know,
 What kynde of trade doth yeald the furest gaine,

My judgement, now, of some I meane to showe,
And after toyle, which quiteth best thy paine,
The merchant he, which cuts the mounting seas,
With course direct, as lyes his best availe,
The Spanishe marte whose mynde sometime doth please,
With further reach some hoyft their hovering faile.
Some passe Maroccoes straights, by painefull toyle,
Some seeke to reape the fruites of Ciprus foyle.

But how or where they come with oken blockes,
Their lives, their goods, doth rest in Neptunes handes,
In rage some times who rolles them on the rockes,
Or driven unknowne, they sinke on Sillaes sandes ;
The gotten gaine they lookt, thus haplesse lost,
In lue of toyle, them selves be quite undone.
Now unto him which furrowes on the coast,
And hazzard gaine on waltering waves doth shun,
Who gropes the oxe, who sheares the sheepe for gaine,
Is often doubt with dewes of rotting raine.

The handie craft, who wins his breade by toyle,
With sweate of browe he gropes for others gaine ;
He tyles the ground, he sows with seede the foyle,
When others reape the harvest of his paine,
To lodge the lord who buildes the stately hall,
Yet glad to couch in cabben clad with reede,
For others joy who lives him selfe in thrall,
Who killes the sheepe, yet of the head doth feede ;
His summers toyle doth ferve for winters store,
From hand to mouth, good soule, he hath no more.

The captaine he, which climbs for high aduance,
By piercing blade imbrude in enimies blood,
In martiall shewes who formost leades the daunce,
His fouldiers trainde in warlike order good,
The pyke men plasste to stay the horsemens rage,
The musket wilde, aloofe to fouse them downe,
The byll men fresh when handie stroakes must gage,
When gallants having charge doth cry *Aloun!*
Then tantara! he bids in battell ray,
Be mearching, mates, in hope of happie day.

But when to joyne the bloudie trumpe doth founde,
The horfemen fling to breake the pikemens ray,
The roaring gunnes doth terrifie the grounde,
The feathred flightes the enimies face doth fray,
The currier swift doth rid the skonce of ake,
With streames of bloud the joyning vallies flowes,
And wounded wightes for life their heeles doth shake;
Who scapeth then, next brunt may go to pot:
Thus daungerous standes the souldier state, God wot.

The courtier nowe, which hops up by degree,
And haply heav'd to heigth of high renowne,
If he do swerve from top of tickle tree,
His courtly friends will helpe to throwe him downe,
Who fawned earst then wrayes the forme of hate,
He (honoured late) nowe glad to crouch and creepe;
Yet envie vile, with spite and foule debate,
So wreastes his guilt, that grace doth alwayes sleepe:
Expence and toyle is guerdond with disdaine,
A bare reward in recompence of paine.

The clowne doth clawe more coyne out of the ground
Then he whose skill doth reach the state of starres :
Of yore though men, though learning, were renound,
Wealth with those wits is nowe at mortall warres.
By physickes arte, to credite many mount,
Where lacke of skill doth murther many one,
A forrie trust, tyde to so hard acount,
To lende him pence that payes the death for lone ;
And yet no doubt his gaine is gauld with grieve,
When conscience his doth call him murdring theefe.

The three
following, are
the trade of
surest gaine.

Great be the rents the clergie doth receive ;
More great their charge the count if conscience take,
If errors their, the simple doth deceive,
For both their misse amendes their foules shall make :
This desperate cure agrees not with my minde,
Although the gaine doth tempr my greedie thought ;
If so it be that mystes of fraude doth blynde,
Or falshood faith from former grace hath wrought ;
If trades of gaine be spyte with deepe deceit,
The lawyers hooke lyes hid in sweetest bayte.

It choketh fooles which hunger after strife :
Suppose that craft doth fore abuse his skill,
He fleas the purse, the others foule and life
By learnings lacke, and error oft doth kill.
He roystes in fylkes which merchants fetch a far ;
Him glad to please the simple foule doth moyle,
His sugred charme witch angels to the bar,
His piercing pen the souldier oft doth foyle :
For folace sake, if he will to the court,
If any be, he soone shall see the sport.

F F

He little weyes, so lawe be on his side,
 The thundring threates which lordly might doth move.
 If that his cause with countrie men be tride,
 More harts he hath for feare then they for love;
 He often pulles a perfonage from the priest,
 And overrules by lawe both might and right,
 A kildowe, sure, whom no man dare refist:
 Godshield, that I with such a bug should fight!
 And thus thou hearst of trades what I can say:
 The lawe for gaine doth beare the bell away.

Formæ nulla fides.

H. C. answere to G. W. opinion of trades.

I thought (my George) thy muse would fully fit
 My troubled mynde, with heast of setled doome,
 And tell the trade, wherein I sure might fit,
 From nipping neede in wealthy walled roome:
 But out alas! in tedious tale
 She telles the toyles of all,
 And forgeth fates t'attend estates,
 That feeld or never fall.

Bereaving so the hope that earst I held,
 To finde at last a sight to set me sure,
 In profites path my thriftlesse feete to weald,
 Or walke the way that age might well indure.
 Sith haplesse haps, or conscience crackes,
 Or toyles of tedious waight,
 She proves the fees of all degrees,
 Each course with cares affraight.

And yet I smell whereto thy tale doth tend,
And smile to see thy quaint conceit therein.
I write not here thy meaning to amend ;
Against thy wordes this answere I begin :

 In prime to touch the merchants trade,
 Which furrowes fishfull floodes,
 Whose hap, thou faist, is lightly hurt
 With losse of life and goods.

Thou faist his ship fits sincking on the sande
Of Sillas seas, or on Caribdis rockes,
When nothing lesse, the sea more fure then land,
Then fenced fortes, more trustie hollowe blockes.

 Let Neptune rage with wayward waves,
 A figge for Aeoles windes,
 By anchors stay in harbour gay,
 The merchants succour findes.

As for the man that furrowes in the fiede,
Distrusting gaines that waltering waves afforde,
The fees that oxe and fruitfull sheepe doth yeelde,
And parched fieldes, and northren dewes accorde,

 His paines do passing pleasure quit,
 When greenie landes appeares :
 He smiles in sweate, when harvest heate
 Dries up the corned eares.

The craftes man, he that lives by handie skill,
By toyle and trade obtaineth needefull gaines :
Ynough's as good as any feast, sith will
And quiet mynde contented so remaines ;

He lives at rest in meane estate,
Contemning fortunes blast,
While such as hye aloft do flye,
He sees to fall as fast.

The noble hart, whome nature pricks to prancke
In martiall fieldes, amid the clattering crewe,
For high renoune to furnish up the ranke,
Thy Muse to daunt (oh!) how the fame I rewe.
Sith pen, ne tong, nor minde can match
With due deserved hire,
The factes of those, which force their foes
By helmets helpe retire.

The courtier he, that hops for high degree,
At last attaines his wel deserved hap,
For service done he must rewarded be,
And gwerdon his the marke he leveld at ;
Which gotten, if he loose againe,
The fault ascribe his owne,
But fetled wits escape the fits
To carelesse courtiers knowne.

The masking mynd that mounts amid the starrs,
And wakes to write, by skill of planets course
Foretels of dearth, of plentie, peace, and warres,
Of temperate times, of hoarie Hyems force ;
Not only skill, but lasting fame,
When death deprives his dayes,
He reapes with groates, to garde his coates,
Art thrives at all affayes.

Phyſicians dregs who taſteth not betime,
May come too ſhort, if faintneſſe feare to bleede :
Maſ' doctours drinke deſerves this praiſe of mine,
I never knewe the man it ſtoode in ſteede ;
 Yet one kynde tale, and one kynde drinke,
 One doctour ſure hath got,
 A tawnie velvet coate and pouch ;
 What others get God wot.

Though rents be great that runs to clergies ſhare,
And more th' account their ſoules doth reſt upon,
Yet Chriſte his truth to preach if nere they ſpare,
But feede the flocke, the account is caſt anon ;
 And in reward of ſervice done,
 At laſt appointed houre,
 Where Chriſt doth reigne they ſhall attaine
 To ſhroude in heavenly bowre.

The lawyer he, the man that meaſures right
By reaſon, rule, and lawe, conjoynd in one,
Thy roving Muſe ſquares much with his delight,
Whoſe only toyle all ſtates depend upon :
 For lawyer gone, good right adieu ;
 Dick Swaſh muſt rule the roaſte,
 And madding might would baniſh quite
 Tom Troth from Engliſh coaſt.

In corner cloſe, mid bookes of crabbed ſenſe,
For ten yeres day ſith fore he beates his braines,
To finde the right of things from foule offence,
Who can deprive ſuch toyle of hoped gaines ?

In doubtfull doomes he reaves the right,
 And throweth force along,
 With doubtfull praise his fame to raise,
 In fayth, thou dost him wrong.

*A briefe discourse of the discommodities of quarelling,
 written at the request of his especiall friend and
 kinsfeman, Maister Robert Cudden of
 Grayes In.*

As manhood is a vertue great, where wisedome rules the
 sword,
 As great a vice it is to brall for every trifling word ;
 The rayling speach, the fearelesse othes, the standers by
 affright,
 When quarellers, like curtall cures, do barke before they
 bite ;
 But if their brauling turne to blowes, his count comes very
 scant,
 For fixe pence strife to buy a sword and buckler if he want.
 A reckning worffe to catch a licke, but worst the losse of
 life ;
 One of which evils lightly haunt the man which lives in
 strife.
 Who so is hurt doth feele the smart, who hurtes in feare
 doth live ;
 His foe to seeke a sharpe revenge some desperate stroke
 will give :
 If lucklesse blowe should pierce the hart, the one to death
 gives place,

The other lives in slender hope to have the princes grace.
Though suite of friendes his pardon gets, appeale doth
 pinch his purse,
But gnawing of the conscience guilt then all will grieve
 him worse.
What greater spite then spoyled limmes, with houghed
 legs to limp,
Or with a wood or yron hand the maimed arme to ympe.
This mone he findes at straungers handes a colde amends,
 in fayth,
A proper man as one shall see, see what mishap he hath !
But they that know his bralles doth say, no force, it skilleth
 not,
His haffard hap hath hit the white at which his follie shot.
His friends do count by this mischance how he doth
 nothing loose :
Who else would kyll, or fure be kilde, a forrie choise to
 choose.
But (ah !) good coufe, at this my verse the reader smyle I see,
Who sayes, behold how far from words his deeds doe dis-
 agree :
If halfe this reason rulde his rage, his rashnesse had not
 caught
A maimed hand (which true I graunt), nor tryall had me
 taught
The goodnesse halfe of such a lym, which by the losse I finde.
But sith mishap would have it so, this shewes an honest
 mynde,
To warne his friends the vice to shun, whose prooffe bew-
 rayes the woe :
If late repentance wrought him helpe, he would no more
 do so.

*The unhappie man contemneth Fortune, and cleaveth to
Hope, assured once to reach good hap by vertuous
Industrie, in the despite of Fortune.*

Sweete is the thought where hope perswadeth hap,
Although the mynd be fed with faint desire :
The dunghil drone would mount to honours lap,
If forward thoughts to fortune could aspire ;
The ventrous knight, whom vallor doth aduance,
First cuts off dread with hope of happie chaunce.

If hope of fame supprest not feare of death,
In face of shot the souldier would not run ;
Or recke so small the losse of lively breath,
If spoyle thereof a slender glory won :
Nor merchants would to seeke out forreine soyle,
If hope of gaine ne recompens their toyle.

The murderous mate, the traitour, and the theefe,
By conscience guilt that bathes in bitter teares,
In hope of grace doth sucke out sweete reliefe,
Which weares to eb their flowing tyde of feares :
Then, sith she feeds the wights forworne with wo,
Why should I faint, though Fortune be my fo ?

Whose thought doth climbe by vertue, not by vice,
To whom perforce proude Fortune yeldes a thral,
Suppose (sly hap) may hinder my device,
Feare feedes the heart that faintes for every fall :
If first come short, then frame a newe account,
The forward mynde a thousand wayes may mount.

Thou feest that doultes, whome only hap aduance,
Dare overrule their betters farre in wit,
Which vailde their hope to every forrie chaunce,
What may be, then, whose hap with skill is knit?
Bare fway by will, as well in wrong as right,
Grudge may his foes, but not withstande his might.

Yet hardly men by vertue do aspire:
Spight fowes suspect, till their defart be tryde,
But once aduauft is that the wise desire,
In favour they for fortunes chaunge provide:
Then though at first thou light in envies trap,
Small were thy losse, which never earst hadst hap.

If so it be, in hope I forward fet
To raunge the world, as fortune shall me drive,
A happy toyle, if credite so I get,
As sure I shall; for what is he alive,
But hath good hap, within so large a scope?
God and Saint George, send fortune as I hope!

How great a follie the conceit of excellencie is.

Where as dame Nature hath bestow'd a speciall gift of wit,
And learning won by travell long with natures lore is knit,
If wisdome then do rule his tounge, the tryall of his skill,
A passing praise among the wise, no doubt but win he will;
But once infect with fonde conceit, how he doth others passe,
So feeding on his painted speach wil prove a passing asse.
Or if he seekes by reason's rule the scoffer to disgrace,

Which makes a scorne of founde advice, and loves to floute
and face ;

Or when his equalles list to sport, to waste their sharpe
annoy,

His glorious tounge is gravely bent to countermaund their joy.
If once they do espy his veine, their vice they will him take,
Then sots will straight be on his top, the residue sport
to make.

If argument his betters move, howe so the fame doth growe,
If he defende or prove with them, before their mynde
he knowe,

Too malapert they will him recke, and so their tale adjourne.
Thus too familiar speach in him unto contempt will tourne,
Where haply else, to try his wit, them selves will him
request

To shewe his reasons and his mynde, which side he liketh
best :

For ofte the best the baser choose, and leaves the high estate,
But knowes againe when to be strange, lest he should prove
checke mat[e.]

In honest myrth is wisedome seene, as time thereto doth fit,
For gravest heads must have a meane for to refresh their wit:
Fewe wordes they say, in order plasste, the wise mans tale
doth wray,

And silence is an answere fit the noddies tounge to stay.
But over haste in seeking praise some myndes perswade
the[e] stil

Their knowledge silence will conceale, what then availes
their skill ?

When as betweene the both extreames a modest meane
doth lye,

For to direct the wifemans tong, as needes the use shall try.

Against ingratitude.

Periander of Corinth, sometime prince,
A lawe ordainde ingratefull chuffes to paine,
Which was on prooffe, who could a churle convince,
To reape rewardes, unrecompentst againe,
To levie mendes he should no longer live.
For why (quoth he) fuche men deserves no grace,
As gladly take, and grudge againe to give ;
A needefull lawe this shamelesse sect to chace,
For what may be a viler fault then this,
To be unkinde to father or to friend,
Or how may men amend their foule amiffe,
Which scornes the wightes which dayly them defend ?
A farmer once a frozen fnake did finde,
With pitie mov'd who layd her by the fire ;
The fnake reviv'd did shewe her selfe unkinde,
But what ensu'd ? he flue her for her hire.
A morall rule ingratefull wights to warne,
How thanklesse they do quite a friendly turne.
But out alas ! those varlets be so stearne,
That viper like, they lawe and dutie spurne.
We dayly see the parents painfull toyle,
Their restlesse care their children well to traine :
We likewise see how thanklesse children spoyle
Their parents goods, or wish them dead for gaine.
The good man oft the friendlesse childe doth keepe,
And fosters him with many a friendly grote,
Who seekes his spoyle, when he is found asleepe,
Or gives consent to cut his maisters throte.

We see some men advaunst to honours hye,
By helpe of such which once did beare a sway,
Which quite forget what feathers forst them flye :
If founders theirs by froward chaunce decay,
The traitrous mate, whose prince doth cal to grace,
Is subject straight to sowe seditious strife ;
No marvell, then, to root out such a race,
If Corinth king ordained losse of life,
But if in ure we now should put his doome,
Ingratefull gnufes each gallows so would cloy,
That scarcely theeves to hang shuld have a roome
To ease the iust, whom dayly they annoy :
Yet doubt I not some meanes would be preparte,
To cut them off, for both may well be sparde.

*The evill fortune of a covetous person, and what profite
ariseth by the death of a churle.*

A desperate wight, his fortunes foule to free,
(By wilfull death) to rid his cares did choose,
But as he trudgd, to totter on a tree,
Untimely there his loathed life to loose,
(A rare good hap) a pot of golde he found.
The gold hee rapt, his rope hee left behind :
Anon a carle came sneaking through the ground,
In steede of gold a rope who there did finde ;
Which haplesse fight so nipt him at the hart,
That loe ! for woe hee pissed where hee stoode.
At length (quoth hee) this cord shall cure my smart,
And so hee hung himselfe in fullen moode.

The fight were fayre, if every bough did beare
Such kinde of fruites, till caren churles were choakt,
Whose deathes inforce a thousand well to fare,
Their lives the poore a many wayes hath yoakt.
The wormes rejoyce upon a churle to gnawe,
The poore man then, whom hee did pinch of yore,
Hath pennie dole and meate to fill his mawe;
Where scarcitie was, forthwith appeareth store.
Pray for his foule, the common people crie,
As for his life, the world full well may spare:
His hordes of gold about the house then flie,
Catch who catch may, his goods a hundred share.
His heapes of corne to every market failes,
Which close hee kept in hope of some deare yeare,
And where hee sparde the parings of his nailes,
His sonne may spend and make his friends good cheare.
If such increafe comes by a carrens death,
Who would not wish a cord to stop his breath?

A briefe description of death.

Death is a piller to the prince,
true justice to uphold;
A terrour to the trayterous mate,
his secretes to unfould;
A stedfast stay to common weales,
a webbe of worldlings woe,
A father to the harmeleffe wight,
unto his friend a foe.

*An Epitaphe upon the death of Henry Cantrell, of Lincolnes
Inne, Gent.; by his friend R. C.*

Sith vertuous life death never may deprive,
But liveth (ay) amidde the glorious crew,
Lament not, then : our Cantrell is alive,
In heaven on highe, with chaunged life a new.
Then death no dole, fith life therein remaines,
But glad, hee gone to blisse from worldly paines.

From wreake of woe, from cutt of cares anoye,
From fainting frends, from dole of doubtful dome,
From vaine delights, the counterfet of joy,
From sobbing fighes, whence sorrowes feedes do come,
From dread to die, fith death doth cleare us quit;
Lament not, then, good Henrie Cantrells hit.

The dalying dayes, that here wee lead alonge
An earthlie mould, fills up the sacke with finnes ;
Here mirth with mone is alwayes mixt amonge,
To fowre our sweete here fortune never linnes ;
Hence pleafure packes, no joy can here remaine,
No fwallowed sweete not purgde with pills of paine.

Then laude the Lord, lament no whit at all,
Though it has pleafd his will and heavenly hest,
From wretched us this happie youth to call,
For (fure I fay) his foul him liked best.
Thus best hee calls, and leaves the worft alone;
His mercie fuch our heaped finnes to mone.

*How great a vice it is either for the vertuous, or valiaunt man,
to accompanie himselfe with men of base condition,
when as (acknowledging his dutie) hee
may adventure into the com-
panie of the best.*

Where vertue may, or vallor one aduaunce,
To base his hap a loute to live belowe,
Or credite seeke with men of meanest chaunce,
A fearefull hart a dunghill minde doe shewe;
On thornes no grapes, but sower flowes doth growe;
Even so by fottes, no fame, but shame doth rise,
A faire catch for such to count thee wise.

The forward minde doth covet this at least,
To prease, where hee is poorest of the traine,
And not to live with those (himselfe) the best,
For sure hee shall a lowlie kingdome gaine,
Where under him do none but beggers raine:
By learninges lore who doth the idiot schoole,
In fine, will prove himselfe a passing foole.

The highest trees doth keepe the under spray
From Phœbus gleames, from sugred dewes that fall:
So mounting mindes aloft doth beare the sway,
When meaner wittes doth live belowe in thrall;
They sucke the sweetes when fottes do gnawe the gall,
They wrong by might, their will makes right a mome:
Who prickes at such but feeldome shooteth home.

Such is their force where credite beareth fway,
A perfect tale although the wronged tell,
Their thwarting speach what they mislike will stay;
The wronged wight with wrath may haply swell,
And pleades a fresh, though not so passing well:
Then, fausie knave, how mallapeart hee is,
Away go packe! your purpose you shall mis.

But if the fot, which in their favour stand,
Do flammer forth a patched tale of lyes,
Their helping speach will force him understand,
The way and meanes afresh for to devise,
To frame his talke, from shewe of trueth to rife:
A vertue straunge their wordes can bring to passe,
That fooles seeme wise, the wise in shew an asse.

What freer life then others to commaund?
What happier state then for to live in rest?
What greater wealth then what a man demaund?
What credite like the countnaunce of the best?
For thralles it were a heaven to reach the lest,
But they aloft whom vertue doth aduance,
If more may be, injoye more happie chaunce.

Who will not, then, both seeke and double seeke
To reach this hap with hazard at the first?
The foreward wight, though fortune give the gleeke,
Afresh will toyle, till that his hart doth burst:
If still shee frowne, in faith, the man is curst;
A fall (faith he) who recketh such a losse
An asse shall ride, and no hie sturring horffe.

For prooffe againe, the huge and mightie oke,
Whose withered roote from falling cannot stay,
But downe hee comes by sturdie Boreas stroke;
His fall, God wot, doth crush the under spray.
Even so it fares with those that beareth fway;
If by mishap they wrapped be in thrall,
The poore doth beare the burthen of their fall.

For where as mindes by mischief raise too hie
Sedition sowe, their native soile to wring,
When princes might doth make such rebels flie,
The leaders chiefe, well horst, away do fling,
When pefaunts stay, and *Sursum corde* sing:
They sue for grace, safe in anothers land,
When toyling thralles are trussed out of hand.

If in abuse of both their states be best,
Although the best in faith is very bad,
Deserving well, they are farre better blest:
They roist in filkes, when clownes in raggs are clad;
They have their will, and what can more be had?
Who will not then, how so fly hap faith nay,
Seeke out this chaunce, if vertue sayes hee may?

*An Epitaphe on the death of the right worshipful maister
Robert Wingfield, of Upton in the countie
of Northampton, Esquier.*

To shewe their cause of dole, whom Wingfields death doth
pearse,
Good Muse, take thou a little paine his vertues to rehearse.

H H

Hee wel was knowne to spring from house of auncient name,
Yea, leave his armes, and blase his actes, and you shall see
the fame.

His zeale to serve his God, his care to save his foule,
His stoute contempt of Romish ragges, their taxe, their
tyth, and toule.

The Gospell that hee lov'd, his life that showde no lesse,
Bare witnesse that in words and workes the trueth he did
professe.

Beleeve his blessings else, which hee receyv'd from hie,
The first long life in happie health, till age inforst him die :
And then this comfort sweete, to free his age from feares,
Hee sawe his children live and like in credite many yeares.
Sufficient wealth hee had, ynough hee thought a feast,
Hee had ynough, hee spent ynough, and with ynough
deceast.

His credite with his prince continued from his youth,
(A sight most rare) in office plaist hee trust returnde with
trueth.

Full fiftie yeares and twoe a justice place hee usde,
For common peace, and profite both, hee seeldome paynes
refusde :

Hee weeded wronges from right by law, and not by ame,
Hee kept this course, to helpe the poore, the lewd againe
to blame.

His life upright and just, he joyde in no mans thrall,
His dealings were both lov'd and likt among his neigh-
bours all.

His bountie at his bord, his store for every sort,
The hie, the lowe, the riche, the poore, wrought him a rare
report.

And thus long time hee liv'de in credite and in love,
Till death, to worke his joy, our grieve, his force began to
prove :

But yet hee sicknes sent, for to forewarne him first,
Whose honest minde, whose conscience cleare, straight bade
him doe his wors't.

And so with hope of heaven unto the grave hee vailde,
Of which hee glad, his friendes as sad, if sorrowe ought
prevailde.

Vivit post funera virtus.

*An Epitaphe on the death of the right worshipfull
maister John Ayleworth, Esquier.*

If men may waile their losse, that death hath ridde from woe,
Then give mee leave to weepe my fill, my sorrowes so
to showe :

And though to bathe in teares small botes, now hee is gone,
Yet none can leave so firme a friend, and showe no signe
of mone.

When brainesicke I a bruse with over bravery caught,
Hee first did cure my neede with coyne, then foundly thus
mee taught.

Bee stayde : for rowling stones do sildome gather mosse :
I tryde his ayde, I likt his wordes, and still shall rue
his losse.

His losse not I alone. but thoufands more lament,
His children, friends, and servaunts poore, with brackish
teares are sprent.

But oh ! you fillie poore, whom neede doth nip and pearce,

With hart, with hand, with might and maine, your heapes
of woe rehearse.

Crye out of cruell death for reaving your reliefe :

You are the wightes that have (God wott) the greatest
cause of griefe.

When hunger faintes your heartes, when you with cold
shall frease,

The lacke of Ayleworths foode and fire your starved limms
to ease.

When might would marre your right, his counsell found
and sure,

His open purse to pleade your cause, the paines he put
in ure.

When you (poore foules) shall misse with him that was
your stay,

Then shall your griefes appeare as greene as hee had dyde
to day.

These were his fruites of faith, these almes hee did of zeale :
Hee wayde no showe, his woordes in workes the Gospell
did reveale.

Exhortatio.

O life of much availe ! O worldlings it infue !

So shall you not be ledde by gold, but gold be rulde
by you ;

So shall you keepe him bright, that mouldeth in your cheft,
So shall the world speake well of you, your conscience so
in rest.

The sweetest joyes of all, though death your farewell give,
So, so ; your foules with his in heaven, your fames on earth
shall live.

*An Epitaphe, in the order of an admonition, written on the
death of his verie friend, John Note, of Grayes
Inne, Gent. Untimely slaine the
2. of November 1575.*

With teares in thought imprint, both frem and knowen
frende,

Three speciall notes of much availe, by *Notes* untimely ende.

1. Note first his honest life of every fort was lov'd,
Learned hee was and vertuous both, his manhoode
thoroughly prov'd.

A gallant witte hee had, the which hee governde so
As did content all fortes of men, when cause the use
did show.

Hee had both health and wealth, his fortune was to hard,
And yet, in spite of froward chaunce, Fame shall his ver-
tues gard.

2. His life would followed bee, his death forwarnes his
friends

(A note of worth) of quarreling, that still with mischiefe
endes;

And yet with such abuse I meane not him to tuch,
But this I say (hee prov'd it true) by once hee fought
to much.

3. An other note hee leaves, the which to show I quake:
His speeding wound so reft his sence, as word hee never
spake.

Gods pleasure in the cause I leave for to dispute:
Hee knewe his thoughts, wee knewe his life; then judge
t'were better mute.

Yet learne you by his fate (if you examples feare)
You have no charter of your life ; then best you do prepare
Your selves eche houre to die, leaft you be *tarde* tooke,
You are here warnd with over prooffe : into your confcience
 looke.

Hora mortis incertiffima.

*An Epitaphe on the death of his especiall friend, Thomas
 Cornelius, Gent., flaine in the Prince of Orenge
 his service in Holland.*

You luftie youthes that sometime were his friends,
Cornelius life here may you lively reade :
In fpite of death his vertues never endes,
Whofe worthie pathes are meete for you to treade,
At home hee feeld in any quarels fell :
All fortes hee pleafd, hee ufde himfelfe fo well.

When Flufhing frayes were rounge with fweete report,
Our Englifh youthes poft haft them thether hie,
Where as they found (Godwot) but forrie fport,
Farre from the fpeech that of the gaine did flie,
With whom in hope, who hap did well deferue,
Away hee goes the Orenge prince to ferve.

And plaffe at length amonge the drunken Dutch,
Hee quite forgot hee went to fight for pence.
The marke of fame was that hee fought to touch,
The which he hit, before hee parted thence :
With flender pay at firft hee was content,
And yet his minde ftill with the foremoft went.

Though harebrainde youthes at fuch preferment fperne,
And gape for charge ere they them felves can guide,
Although hee had of friends to ferve his turne,
Hee left fuch fute, till his defert were tride,
In all al-armes to fight hee foone was preft,
In heate of blowes as forward as the beft.

That hee unfawe, fyld, fkirmifhes there were,
(Such paines hee tooke to fcale the fort of fame,)
The coine hee had hee grudged not to fhare
For their reliefe that fickly were or lame :
Of every fort thus wonne hee worthie praife,
From beft to worft that ferv'd in Holland fraies.

Two yeares and more hee tafted fouldiers toiles,
And did efcape when other men were flaine ;
But keeping ftill a coile in bloudie broiles,
(I fighe to fhew) God wot, he caught his baine.
Who being dead, though no man may revive,
Yet fhall my Mufe his vertues keepe alive.

Mors honefta ignominioſæ vitæ præferenda.

Whetftons invective againſt Dice.

My Mufe to mount Parnaffus hill
Which whilom tokft delight,
Faire Venus joyes to fet to vew,
And wray blind Cupids fpite,
Go fhrowde thy felfe in Limbo lake,
This dririe tale to tell,

Of dice, to figure forth the frute,
 A second shoue of hell :
 There crave the ayde of wrathfull sprites,
 The authors of this art,
 And joyne with them such hellish impes,
 As waytes to woorke our smart.
 For sure their plagues to paint aright,
 Beseemeth well the toile
 Of him that pend the paines of hell,
 How Plutoes thralles do broile.
 The lustie youth, with lyving left,
 Whose woe is wealth and ease,
 To line his purse with powling fines,
 His tenaunts pence doth fease :
 Then doth hee beare a loftie faile,
 As one that dreads no want,
 These sneaking curs now raunge abroad,
 To finde this novis haunt.
 One bitten dog above the rest,
 Doth great acquaintaunce crave,
 Whose kindred blasfe, and friendship voucht,
 Hee treates of counsell grave.
 Trust me, good cus, trust mee, hee cries,
 When first I left my guide,
 This towne did weave my webbe of cares,
 Before that craft I spyde.
 Eche shifting flave did search the meane
 A mate to make mee meete :
 Then hee the names bewrayes of some
 Himselfe to make him sweete.
 The lustie brute which feares no fraude,

A cheating
 merchaunt
 lokes like a
 sneaking cur.

Crosbiting a
 kinde of cou-
 foning under
 the couler of
 frendship.

Doth count his cunning blift,
Who thinkes he hath a faint in hand,
Yet shakes fyr Sathans fift.
Their friendship new, by greeting oft,
Now grafted in their brest,
His kindred coynde in coufners ftampe,
Invites him as his gueft ;
Who kindly thankes him for his coft,
And craves amends to make,
Then trudge they to fome tabling houle,
Their hunger for to flake.
Where daintie fare great ftore they finde,
Their naperie faire and sweete,
And gallants gay with conges kinde
Their comming for to greete.
A bounſing gyrle they fildome miſſe,
To furniſh forth their meſſe,
Whoſe chyrping tongue with pleaſaunt ſpeech
Doth cheare her choſen geſſe.
There ſhall you heare deſcribed plaine
Eche forreine towne and towre,
Augmented newes of warlike frayes,
Where fortune late did lowre.
As cold as ſnow ſome couch their ſcoffes,
And ſome to rayling preſt,
In pleaſaunt ſpeech ſome play the k.
And makes thereon a jeaſt :
And ſome ſo plainly figures forth
The fruites of Venus court,
That honeſt eares doth ſcorne to heare
Their vaine and vile report.

The table
exerciſe.

The feareleffe
othes that
dicers use.

Murderers of
othes.

Monie lightly
wonne, is as
lightly spent.

Their dinner done, they leave this speach;
The gamsters call for dice,
Where posting Jacke to rub the bord
Doth come even with a trice.
To you, you furies, now I leave
This foule abuse to wray,
Their foysting shiftes my Muse doth mase,
Their othes my pen doth fray.
Tenne mine! alowde some cogger cryes,
Three mine! some youth doth fay,
Gods bloud! eleven (well sworne, in faith)
The cafter cryes to pay.
Sixe is the maine, what do you sett?
Well tenne to fixe I have.
Two fines (Gods hart!) then for the houle,
The boxer streight doth crave.
And nine, come ye and nine this crowne:
Well, chaunce at it I fay,
Aumes ase (Gods wounds!) t'is not my lucke
Two maynes to throwe this day.
Some hypocrites do murder othes,
Faire gamsters for to seeme,
But of both evils to choose the best,
The doubt were hard I deeme.
Perhaps some gallant fortune hautes,
Good hap his hand doth guide,
His purse aflote, within his brest
Doth lurke disdainfull pride.
Then roists hee in his ratling filkes,
And fortes with Venus dames,
Whose luring lookes inforce his heart

To frie in Cupids flames.
To traine him in, hee shall injoy
Eche outward shew of blisse :
In secrete sport they wilbe coy,
They feare to do amisse.
A sute of laune my lady lackes,
Or else some trifling cheane ;
A cawle of gold, and other knackes,
My novis purse must gleane.
The haggard, then, that checkt of late,
Will stoupe to fancies lure,
And inward bend at every becke,
No storme shall chaunge procure.
Her cristall eyes shall still be fixt,
To stare uppon his face ;
Her daintie armes shall try their force
Her lover to imbrace ;
Her rubie lippes by stelth shee will
Bee joyning unto his,
With courage vaunst her friend to force
To fall to Venus blisse.
Then will shee play Galatheas part,
To make his joy more sweete,
By striving yeeld, who never thought
From such devise to fleete.
To frame excuse for late offence,
The queane will cog apace,
She will alledge his fugred woordes,
His gallant giftes of grace
So wrought within her horish minde,
As naught availde defence

Luers to
stoupe a
curtisane.

A rape
unpunishable.

For to withstand his sharpe affaultes :
Shee lyes, it was his pence.
 Naught craving for her kindnes shoven,
 Save constancie in him,
 Then shee that rues her chaftice spoild
 In seas of joyes shall swim.
 Which subtile speach doth force her friend
 Within his minde to say,
 In beuties showe my choice doth passe
 Syr Paris peareleffe pray.
 Adventrous boye, now bathe in blisse,
 In scorne of fortunes rage,
 Thy good successe in former futes
 Good happe doth still prefage.
 But all this while his purse is sicke,
 It purgeth more and more :
 Then runnes hee to his former vaine,
 To cure his foudaine fore ;
 Where coemates, if hee chaunce to lacke,
 The devill is in the rome ;
 The maister will supply the want,
 Till more resort doth come :
 Who chiefly in this hellish house
 Doth God in peeces teare,
 With quicke repentaunce then hee cries,
 A beast hee is to sweare.
 Which woordes more true is then his othe,
 When most hee cogs and scowle,
 For one may shape an oxes sconce
 By patterne of his jowle.
 My younge mans purse, that earft was sicke,

Faire words
 makes fooles
 faine.

Like maister,
 like scholers.

Here reapes but small reliefe ;
His newe receite doth scowre to fast,
Cheape Side must cure his grieve.
Then to the goldsmithes straight hee runnes,
Where most his credite is ;
Crackt angels there be currant coyne,
Eight shillinges worth a peece.
Foure pound in twentie for a moneth,
In faith is pretie gaine,
The lender may well live thereon,
The paiment is the paine.
Then, as a man with love once matcht
At length yet wonne the fort,
His lady, yeelding to his lust,
Doth thyrst for Venus sport :
So doth this youth to be at dice,
Thinke every houre three,
One bone was fure the frame of both,
In nature so they gree.
Now fortune frownes, that late did laughe,
To quite him for his scorne,
Ill lucke doth chaunge his chaunce of gaine,
Good lott is quite forlorne.
One by and maine at every throw,
His angell runnes astray ;
He fretts and fumes, and stamps and stares,
Hee leaves a maine to pay.
His fetters some they loofers bee,
They will not so be serv'd ;
They wilbe paid, Gods wounds ! his hart
Forthwith shall els be carv'd.

A notable
usurie.

Both infec-
tions can
hardly be
cured.

There is no
certaintie in
dicers for-
tunes.

Dicers
quarrells.

An il wind
that drives no
man to pro-
fiet.

Some vifite
the ficke,
more in hope
of gaine then
devotion.

With monie loft, his couler ftirde,
Hee bids them do their worft,
And if they dare appoint the place,
Gods bloud ! hee wilbe firft.
The box then at his bofom goes,
His dagger now hee drawes,
They parted are, they do agree,
Abrode to try them dawes.
Then Smithfield ruffians flocke apace,
And Fleteftrete hackfters hew :
The enimies meete, of irckfom hell
They do present the fhew.
Draw ! draw ! the villaines kill ! they cry,
Then fome do fhewe their ftrength ;
Some thruft five yeards, ere foe do come,
To keepe him out at length.
The broken blades they buffe about,
The more the cutlers gaine :
Some hops for neede, which faine would go,
Some lies in ftreate nie flaine.
Some flovins fleues will buttoned bee,
That downe theyr weapons fall ;
The barber waites, the wounded wights
Lookes like the whited wall.
To rue his hap on every fide
His fained friends do flocke ;
His minion kinde to wray his wounds
Will now beftow her fmocke.
Not all for grieve of his mifchaunce
This kindnes they do fhowe,
But greedie gaping after gaine.

If death should ease his woe.
His daunger past by furgions art,
They do present their bill,
The which defraide (with other charge)
His feeble purse doth kill.
He keeping home, when debtes were due,
And payment none was made,
Doth breede mistrust in merchants minds ;
His credite ginns to vade.
To sell his land full loth hee is,
A thred hee fairely spinnes,
To morgage it hee fully minds,
To thrive hee now beginnes.
Now blewberds bagges doth beare the fway,
Old snudges smell him out,
Good simple foules, they plainly meane,
Yet traverfe every doubt.
An hundredth pound they venter will,
On land five hundreth worth ;
In scriveners craft consist their lawe,
Poore subtile men, forsooth.
The ruddockes redde do tempt his eyes,
The instruments be made :
In faith, to sowre his sweete recéite
Before digestion had,
Some unadvifed statute hee,
Without defesaunce wrought,
Doth enter in : their gold to gaine,
Their guiles he feareth nought.
They perchment reape, hee gold doth gleane :
Who toyles in straiteft yoke,

What enfues
after mor-
gaging.

A statute a
perilous
bonde.

A welcome
guest.

Credite once
loft is not
easilie obtain-
ed againe.

Bare words an
yll plea against
matter of
recorde.

Necessitie
tries friends.

For present state, I will not judge,
Hereafter strikes the stroke.
Now hee, for feare of sergeants fauce
That sicknes late did faine,
In every streate which sight presents
His presence you may gaine.
The mercers bookes for filkes bee croft,
His debtes bee now defraide ;
The remnaunt doth the dice consume,
Of all which worst is paide.
Redeeming day drawes on a pace,
His monie cleane is gone,
His creditors, through late mistrust,
Forfooth will lend him none.
Then doth hee trudge to Holdfastes house,
His great distresse to wray,
Of him to get a longer time
His monie for to pay ;
Who aunswers fayre, that God forbid
My conscience I should stretch,
To take advauntage of a day,
(Oh false diffembling wretch !).
The fained woordes hee simply trustes,
The merchant did accord,
As though bare wordes were good discharge
For matters of recorde.
Now is he forst to try his friendes
His monie to provide,
Where he on flocks may see them fleete,
Which fawned in his pride.
Yet some there be for his distresse,

Whofe harts with bale wil bleede,
And findes the meane to lend him coyne :
Well fare a friend in neede !
Advaunst with joy, to pay his pence
In hafte now is he gone,
But cut throte gives a cooling carde,
For monie he will none :
His lande is his, by forfeite plaine,
Which is too sweete to lose ;
For kindnesse yet he will be franke,
He playes now with his nose.
Holde ! twentie poundes, besides to drinke :
How like ye of this match ?
For five to have fiftene with him,
In faith, is but a fnatch.
The youth againe will have his lande,
Or else (Gods wounds !) he sweares,
The pillorie for coufining him
Shall moth eate both his eares.
And in this chafe he doth depart,
Sub penas for to fetch,
Which raunge abroad in every streate,
To catch the coufining wretch ;
Who caught, his pranks of deepe deceite
The youthlings plaint bewrayes,
And shewes, ere time of forfeit came,
He gave him longer dayes.
To answere which, denying all,
The craftie carle now speedes.
With rough reply the plaintive sooths,
His plaint of truth proceedes.

A cooling
carde.

The gnawing worme of conscience vile
 Now bites at Blewbeards brech,
 He feares fol fa, in counsers cliffe
 His eares too hye shall stretch;
 Which makes him trudge to finde his mates,
 The frie of Sathans crue,
 For to consult how to avoyde
 The shame that might ensue.
 The packe of knaverie then they ope,
 Their craftie bondes they viewe.
 One shifting knave a forfeit findes
 To make their enimie rue.
 The rest with open mouth doth crye
 To catch poore counselee,
 By durance hard to make him yeald,
 Which else would not agree.
 Then lay they traines of comin feede
 To toll this pigeon in,
 Whose chiefeft feathers soone be pulde,
 Once snarled in their gin.
 The Counter serves him for a cage,
 Where breeding holes there be,
 But lover lights, to scape away,
 This dove cote lackes, we see.
 For him that earst did raunge abroad,
 This ayre is not fit:
 The Bench, he thinks, more freedome hath,
 For to refresh his wit.
 More haste then needes, he findes a meane
 His causes to remeeve,
 And that the body come with him,

Lewde
 counsell.

Comin a gaunt,
 alias a serpent.

The writ doth charge the shreeve.
Well mand then comes he to the barre,
The judge commaundes away,
Then tipstaves snatch him up in haste,
They make ne long delay.
Safe lockt they leave him under charge,
Untill the court doth rise,
Then guarded to the mershals house
This lustie gallant hies ;
Who passing through the porters lodge,
Then findes no jesting game,
For Burton with his booke of doome
Requesteth him his name.
Roger Woodcocke of unthriftes rowe :
What ! gentleman or squire ?
Ten grotes and two pence you must pay,
I do but right require.
Which payd, a while to viewe the house,
He lets him go at large,
But soone the vermine comes againe,
To give the second charge :
Your worship knowes the losse, fayth he,
My maister should sustaine,
If any prifoner should escape,
Their ease his little gaine ;
And therefore each of you he may
By lawe in yrons lay,
Yet he for pitie trusteth you,
Your penance is to pay
For them three halfpence in the pound,
Your actions yeald thus much,

A gentle
admittance

A gentle
persuasion.

The Kings
Benche never
without a sub-
til lawyer.

Which trifle for your ease to give,
Your worship neede not grutch :
Then may you in the garden walke,
When you have payd your fees.
Thus every way the poore is pincht,
To plucke him on his knees.
An answere faire the prifoner makes,
Which doth content the time,
Then he to seeke his fellow mates
The stayres straight doth clime.
Some subtile lawyer soone he findes,
Who great acquaintance craves,
To whome he shewes his lucklesse lot,
Enforst by shifting slaves ;
And lastly, to his skill commends,
If yron fees be due ?
Extortion plaine, the lawyer faith :
His wordes be very true ;
The statute here at large I have,
Set downe for prifoners ease :
The gaylor can by lawe receive
A groate, no more, for fees,
And in your other causes I
The snudge will sharply yoke :
But looke your counsell lackes no coyne,
For monie strikes the stroke.
Which monie killes the heart of him,
Whome present neede doth pine,
Yet he at first do share him fees,
As though he had a mine,
And, all on hoyh, he rashly reakes

His prifonment a fcorne,
And vainely vaunts, to plague his foe,
Till Saturday at morne.
Corrections then be sharply given
To them which monie lackes,
Now Burton comes for yron fees;
My youth now stoutly crakes,
If he extort where is no right,
The ftatute to prepare,
And fweares to make him pay the paine,
And damage for his share.
But here no lawe nor right do rule,
Ne vaileth threats nor crakes;
With boltes and fhackles on his fhins,
His loaden heeles he fhakes.
Where late was golde, an yron chaine
Do well befeeme the necke,
His wryftes, in fteade of braslets brave,
With manacles be deckt.
And nowe they will him coole his feete,
He cloyde with yrons great,
For all his lawe is glad to pay,
Yea, more then that, entreate.
Thus he that thought Caribdis rockes
By wifedome to efcape,
By follie fell in Sillaes gulfe
His greater griefes to fhape.
How speedes he now in all his fuites,
When all his pence be fpent?
Unfeed do lawyers ply his caufe,
Till newe receipt of rent?

Saturday a
heavie daye to
needie pri-
foners.

Might over-
comes right.

Necessitie
obeys not
lawe.

*Nihil dicet a
vauntage a
coufiner
seekes.*

*A miserable
estate.*

*A nyce com-
panion.*

Nay, Niclas *nihil dicet* sure,
To nip him to the hart,
In execution layes him up,
For feare that he should start.
He fast, his fained friends yet free,
To see him be not rash,
And Mynx, his minion, hath a mate,
And leaves him in the lath.
For, haggard like, she will not stoope,
But where she gets her pray ;
His coyne confumd, his courage coolde,
In hope she will not stay.
What restes nowe to this lucklesse man ?
What pen his woes can wray ?
Of friends forlorne, of freedome reft,
And he at beggers bay.
Thus gaulde with grieve, his lawyer yet
This slender shift doth use,
And sayth that prisioners be opprest,
And all men do refuse
To ease their wants ; and therefore sure
The best is to agree :
He may the better plague his foes,
Abroad when he is free.
Which freedome so doth feede his hart,
Whome present bondage nippes,
That he, through hope before his hap,
For joy now hops and skips ;
And then in hast for Holdfast fends,
Agreement for to make,
But once or twise he must be praid,

Ere hee the paines will take :
And then with one or two he comes,
And up and downe he jets.
Nowe do I smile to shewe the speach
Betwixt these counterfets.
The youth, that roughly rayld of late,
A pitious plaint doth paint,
The divell him selfe in Christian shewe
Doth counterfet a faint ;
But after many wordes of grieve,
That either part can say,
The youth perforce the candle holdes,
And beares the blame away ;
And gladly yealdes him selfe in fault,
Whose craving suite nowe is,
That cutthroate will release him of
The penance of his mis,
And take such order as they both
In friendly league may live.
The more that he in prison spendes,
The lesse he hath to give,
As though that conscience mov'd his mynd,
The merchant doth lament,
Through peevish pride and hautie hart,
His pence and time mispent,
And order takes his owne the gaine,
The losse he leaves to him,
Which thought, without dame wisedomes bark,
In seas of joyes to swimme.
From prison free, he nothing myndes,
The statute to prefare,

The one
through ne-
cessitie, the
other through
hypocrisie.

The proverbe
verified.

The lawe pro-
vides a remedy
for extortion,
&c., but the

lacke of exe-
cution em-
boldeneth
churles to
breake them.

Ventures
barge.

Souldiers
gaine.

Flushing.

Nor for the coufning shiftes he ufde
To cloy the churle with care,
But runnes unto his former vaine,
If ought he have to play.
To posting then he fomewhat puts,
His commons to defray :
Some cheater haply will him teach
Some coging trickes at dice,
Whereby he may mainteine him selfe,
If therein he be wife.
Then is he fet a fale to toule
Some other yonkers in,
To make them bite at unthrifts bayte,
While he their pence doth win.
Some can not brooke this fervile life,
But needes in ventures barge
Will feeke a price ; but howe they speede
I leave to shewe at large.
The sweete report of souldiers gaine,
By them that lacke the sower,
Persuadeth straight some ventrous mynde
To scale dame Fortunes bower :
But Flushing frayes hath wrought such feare,
That they suspend their hope.
If one did gaine, then two were slaine,
The third did stretch a rope ;
And beggers most returnd againe
Unto their native foyle,
For Holland yealded little thrift,
In lue of all their toyle.
And some with trifles seekes to thrive,

But fewe do speede so well,
And with a litle haply learnes
Repentance for to spell.
The serving man, that plyes this vaine,
A shorter cut doth make ;
He hath no fines to fill his purse,
Nor racked rents to rake :
His way for to supply his want,
Is by the Scottish cog,
But finely he must strike his dye,
Least yrons do him clog.
And worfe then that, to make him sure
In haste doth hangman speede,
Where he in cogging winnes the coate,
For that he strikes him dead.
The plowman, and the poorest fort,
Which toyles and sowes the soyle,
And fixe pence by the day doth gaine
In recompence of toyle,
If he at night consume at play
The price of all his hire,
His wife with hunger well may sterue,
His children freefe for fire.
O horned hap of hatefull harme !
O venom vile to tell !
O greedie gulfe of endlesse grieve !
O horror next to hell !
O foule infection, fraught with care !
O sinke, of such a sent
Which never leav'ft thy poyfned thrals,
Till all their wealth be spent !

Of serving
men.

The hang-
mans cog.

Of husband-
men, &c.

For not in vaine Agrippa writ,
The fiends of yre you made,
An art most fit for hellish ympes,
And not for Christians trade :
Pride. A spring from whence all vice did flowe,
Of peevishe pride the nurse,
For note, the dicer roystes in filke,
When pence be pert in purse.
Lecherie. Then must he prease in pleasures court,
To be of Venus traine,
Which soone will purge his foggie purse
From all their pinching paine.
Sloth. His body earst that able was
To serve at eache assay,
By sloth &c. is so weake,
That faintnesse bids him stay.
To shewe the valure of his mynde,
Till natures grieve be easde,
His feareleffe othes will feare the divell,
When losse hath him displeasde.
Blasphemie. Wrath. When malice moves him to revenge,
His quarels do excell ;
His carelesse flashing at his foe
Doth wray the fourme of hell.
Gluttonie. An epicure for his fare,
Covetousnesse. Such is his costely cates,
His mynde is bent to snatch and catch,
Yea more, to rob his mates.
Despaire. When all is spent and credite crackt,
Despaire then strikes the stroke,
And makes him gape in hope of plumbes,

For pence will shun his poke.
And thus you heare in ragged ryme,
For so be seemes the worke,
What veines of vice, what lakes of losse,
In dogged dice doth lurke ;
For loftie verse unfitly serves
To paint the plagues of hell,
Though not the same, yet next thereto,
This dogrell rime doth tell.
How youthes, from rod to freedome leapt,
Are thrall to sharper whips,
Whom coufner first, whom cutthroate next,
Whome lawyer lastly nips.
The braunches of the coufners tree
Are whordome, theft, and pride ;
From cutthroates rout doth bondage spring,
With losse on every side.
The lawyer lickes that they have left,
And lets him sinke or swim ;
Pure neede then makes him leane on those
That earst did live by him.
Although at large I here do touch
Each vice in his degree,
A speciall meaning hath my wordes
To graunt that some there be,
By rules of lawe which rightly live,
And not which rules the lawe,
To wrest the sence to serve their turne,
Their clyents coyne to clawe.
Some merchaunts rise by honest meanes,
And not by craftie shiftes ;

The sum of the
whole dis-
course.

Xceptions.

Some tabling halles, in fayth, I judge
Are free from cheters driftes,
The which I trust will not repine,
Or quite my toyle with blame,
Nor yet the guiltie well may grudge,
Which wifely wayes the same.

Quod nocet docet.

*Fiftie apples of admonition, late growing on the tree of good
government : bestowed on his especiall friends and
and companions, the Gentlemen of
Furnivals In.*

Serve, love, and dread you God on high, obey your prince
on earth ;
Unto your betters dutie shewe, be they by rule or byrth.

Live you within the bounds of lawe, and tether of your fee ;
For lightly after one yeares store, of scarcitie commeth three.

Use studie when your wittes are fresh, and aptest to
conceive ;
But studie not the fruites of fraud, your neighbour to
deceive.

Use exercise with such a meane, as workes your bodies
wealth ;
And too much toyle doth hinder strength, and sloth im-
payreth health.

Make choice to choose such companie as are of honest fame,
For to be seene with thriftlesse men impayreth your good
name.

Use modestie in all your words, despraise no man too much,
For lavish speach breeds great unrest in you and them
you touch.

Make you no shewe of such conceit how others you excell,
For if you doe, the wife will say, wit with a foole doth dwell.

Inforce your selfe silence to use when others tell a tale,
For babble then both troubleth them, and fets your wits
to sale.

Have care to use some recompence where you beholding are,
For, trust me, with ingratitude no honest mynde can bare.

What so your friend commits to you be ever secrete found:
Who gives his tounge much libertie doth all his body
wound.

Beware of taylers curious cuts, for they will shake your
bags;
The merrie meane I holde for best, tweene roysting filkes
and rags.

The tipling taverne, and such like, to haunt have small
desire;
Of all reports it is the worst to be a drunken squire.

Who quarels much hath care enough, with mischiefe oft he
ends :

Saunce need throw not your felvs in brals, in need affist your
friends.

Shun you the trains of wanton dames, whose bayts are sweet
in tast,

But yet, in truth, helth, welth, and fame, the courtesan doth
waft.

As high way unto beggerie beware of dogged dice ;
The greateft cause of blasphemie, a vaine of filthie vice.

Out of the merchants jurnals keepe, buy fildome wares on
trust ;

Such usurie bites above the rest, do try it who so lust.

In neede make choice to sell out right, before you morgage
lande ;

What so befalls, looke for no grace at any cutthrotes hande.

Looke what you feale, read ere you seale ; therein trust no
mans truth,

And writings seald, keepe safe your owne, lest had I wist
enfuth.

Have great regard to furetifhip : all is not golde that shines,
Yet stretch your selves to help your friend with penurie that
pines.

When wedlock life doth like your mynde, match with a
vertuous mayde ;

The mischiefe of the contrarie a plague next hell is fayd.

And married wel, the citie leave ; fing then Pierce Plowmans
fong,
For women, ufde to London once, will ever thether long.

Where fo you live, have great regarde to ufe your neighbor
well :
A good report, in my conceit, doth riches farre excell.

What fome confume in painted pride good houle keep you
withal ;
Relieve the poore in any cafe ; let chaps walke in your hall.

Intreate your honeft fervant well, give him his hired due ;
The flatterer, and the make bate wretch, in any wife efchue.

Account that wrangling in the lawe is enimie to reft,
A spoyle of fame, a losse of time, a theefe that robs your cheft.

This reckoning make, to ferve your felves you are not only
born ;
Your countrie, friends, and children looke each one for fom
good turn.

Three forts of men, with fpeciall care, folve you their needy
griefe :
The fcholer forced from his booke abroad to feeke reliefe,

The fouldier fpoyled in the wars, whose haffard works your
peace,
And next the fimple husbandman, who toyles for your in-
creafe.

So spend your time, as you may leave some monument of
fame :

Preferre an honest death before a life prorog'd with shame.

Quod cavere possis, stultum est admittere.

*A Caveat to G. W. at his going into Fraunce : written
by his friend R. C.*

Post hast since so thou mak'ft the coast of Fraunce to see,
Thy frends advice in baren verse, good George, yet take with
thee.

Have thou a haught disdaine, which art a Bryttan bred,
At thy returne to prove howe that French follies filles thy
hed ;

In native soyle disguised, thy selfe God shield thou showe,
In coate, in cloake, in hat, in hose, a French man like to go :
French shoes, made fast with pointes, in doublets fyde and
wide,

Which French men weare (God wot) for ease, fute not thy
selfe through pride.

What tendeth to thy thrift, to folow not refuse :
Keepe thou one servant and no more, but not, as French
men use,

For wages pay not words, as is the guise of Fraunce.
Array him not in tattered rags, french like, or nakt to daunce.
One meale, no more, a day is pittance very small,
To like wel of such french like fare few English yeomen
fall.

Let gesture, words, nor weedes, inforce thy friends to say,
Behold a Frenchman wher he flaunts ! if face be turn'd away.

Which face French like to fute, good George, take speciall
heede,

In taste the baites are very sweete, that do such cankers
breede.

For to pronounce thy wordes, yea, French and all first lose,
Afore thou spoyle thy English tong with snuffling in the nose.
Thou knowest what I meane, thy wit is good and quicke,
Yet wise men oft, before they looke, fast in the myre sticke.
But ere thou rashly leape, the ditches I reveale ;
The plaineesse of my muse bewrayes, my warning is of zeale.
My joy thy profite great, if thy returne do shewe
Thy travell tends to countries good, not French man like to
goe.

The rage of retchlesse youth thy travell did allay,
And not thereby with proudest shewe to royst in garments
gay,

That thou canst yeald account what is the countries state,
What newes of note do run abroad, as well of love as hate.
These fruits thy friends expect at thy returne to reape ;
But stay I here, into advice my muse too farre doth creepe.
She ment not to direct how thou shouldst use thy time,
She ment French follies, for thy heede, to touch in naked
rime :

Well, since she rov'd so farre, alowe what she hath fayde,
My inward wish (for thy avayle) she hath no more but wrayde.

Vive et vale.

Whetstons Dreame.

I waying once my harmes by others health,
By just account I found the selfe same thing

M M

Which weand my wo did worke anothers wealth,
Which wrought my pain to some did pleasure bring :
Thus, cloyd with care, to see my lucklesse lot,
My senses fayld, as though I were a fot.

Yet Sopors beames so could not cleare my brest,
But stormes of care did shower in my thought ;
Thus slumber sweete did yeald but little rest,
For pinching paine suppress that pleasure wrought ;
But as my woes did wander here and there,
My thought I sawe an aged man appeare.

Patience.

Yet such a one as care me seemd to cloy,
And Patience he did name him selfe to me,
Who bad me straight to bannish all annoy,
And of these doubtles I soone an end should see :
Then I with him pursued the most resort
Unto a place which seemde a princes court.

Whereas, my thought, sat crownd a famous queene,
By due desert to beare the regall sway,
Whose princely rule hath seldome earst ben seene,
As though the gods dame nature did obey,
That justice should degrade them of each grace,
Her to invest with rule of vertues mace.

Upon whose grace did nobles grave attend,
By whose foresight in peace her subjects live,
And valiaunt peeres were ready to defend,
If forreine force would once adventure give
By warlike frayes to worke our great unrest,
With fire, sworde, and piercing speare in rest.

Within this court, clothed in honest shewe,
Was Envie, Hate, Ambition, and Deceit,
On whome to waite, whereas these fiends did go,
Base minded wights were ready at the gate,
Which never fought that vertue should advance
Their hautie mindes to height of happie chance.

There might I see of men another race,
Which seemd to wayle their woes with weeping eye,
Whom these same sprites had shaken once of grace
By false suspect and filthy flatterie ;
And well I markt how they did crouch and creepe,
And all for grace, which evermore did sleepe.

Then I espide another valiant crewe,
Which lookt aloft, by vertue to aspire
Unto the roome to their defart ydewe,
If due defart had reapt deserved hire ;
But vertue gapt, and gained nought but plums,
For flatterie catcht before they fell the crums.

Quoth Grayberd then, such once was my good hap,
To be advaunst to height of great renoune,
But I, too soone, was caught in Envies trap,
Where false suspect by flatterie kept me downe ;
Then patience I, perforce, a vertue made,
And left with losse the countries tickle trade.

The[n] foorth we go into another place
By outward shew, where faints, my thought, did fit,
Whose gentle speach prefaged endlesse grace,

Their loofe their gaine, they voucht by facred writ :
Thefe prelates were ; their words deferv'd their roome,
But fure their deedes I leave to others doome.

Hypocrisie did beare a vengeance fway,
His double tong did bleare the clergies eye ;
He ftill affirmde, t'was true that they did fay,
Gainft their device a thoufand woes did cry :
Mas. Ignoraunce a minifter was made,
Who babbled much, yet wift not what he fayd.

Yet fure this clarke did fo in Scriptures creepe,
As voucht the fame to cloake each crime he could :
Pafce oves he tooke for graſing ſheepe,
Which well he fed, and daily view'd his fould ;
And yet this fot with pence procur'd fuch grace,
As oft he wrought true preachers out of place.

Then out we goe into a pleafant plaine,
In armour bright where gallants we eſpy ;
The captaine ftird the fouldiers rawe to traine,
Of ſome unwiſht, unwares their foes drewe nye :
The cannon crackes like thunder claps did ſing,
At trumpets ſound the horſe men forward fling.

In formoſt frunt the feareleſſe youthes did fight,
Which honour fought, and ſo with honour dyde :
The fencer there prov'd not the forwardſt wight,
Baſe minded Dick the ſpoyle, not blowes, applyde :
The coward yet a loofe did catch a licke,
As foone as he which throngd among the thicke.

When fearelesse blowes had driven their foes away,
To flash and flay the cowards did not spare;
When spoile was given, the souldiers paines to pay,
Who best deserv'd did reape the barest share:
Thus vallor fought, and falthoode fleest the spoile;
The coward thriv'de, who leaft of all did toile.

These bloudie broiles, mee thought, wee then forfooke,
And soone wee slipt into a stately hall.
Now well apayde about the fame I looke,
For glad I was I scapt the souldiers thrall;
And proudly then I throngd amid the preace,
For that their weedes bewrayde the men of peace.

Within this hall were kept the princes courtes,
Where lawyers fate as judges in the fame:
To shew their griefes more haft then needes resortes,
Both hie and lowe, the riche and poore of name:
Pro et contra, for pence at every barre,
In right and wronge the lawyers were at jarre,

In faith, quoth I, these men deserveth praise,
For justice cause which thus imployes their paine;
But I to[o] hie a note their names did raise:
In right or wrong they still did gape for gaine,
And as I walkt I saw one wrapt in woe,
Which much complainde of matter *de post facto*.

Speake, English man, what meanes these words? (quoth I).
Oh fyr! hee said, a quillet in the lawe
Alas it is, which makes mee howle and crie.

And looking backe another man I sawe,
Of whom I askt, why hee did looke so glum?
Hee plagued was with plees of *non est factum*.

I, smyling then to heare the clownish drone,
By neede inforst to talke hee wist not what,
But as I learnd the cause of all his mone,
More pittie fure, a lawyers friend how that
To pay him pence did enter into band,
The which hee seald, and livered with his hand.

But after, catcht by craft the selfe same bill,
The former seale he falslie toke away,
An other seald the same which he did spill,
And unsuspect the bond there downe did lay,
Which forfet once, in law they fall at jarre:
The seale was off was pleaded then in barre.

There might I see releasses finely framde,
Provided yet, that if such thinges were done,
Which latter wordes, by former force were lamde:
Who so releast a faire thred then hee spunne,
With thousand toyes, which I do here omitt,
Did coufening craft within his capcase knitt.

I lately feard to see the feareleffe blowes,
The proud attempes assayd by desperate men,
Here rouled bookes my manhooode over throwes,
I durst not bide the truncheon of a pen;
Yet well I markt how mercie bared sway:
The conquerd wightes were prisioners sent away,

But for this grace their raunfome sure was great :
The gaylor fleest, the lawyer had a share ;
If pence were spent, cold yrons made him sweate,
Hard beds well payde, poore cheere was costly fare,
Agreeved much, extortion bare such fway,
To Patience I, meethought, these words did fay.

Can coufening shiftes thus conscience foyle in fight ?
Where is no right, may hellhoundes thus extort ?
Shall perjurie condemne the guiltlesse wight ?
And may it bee, suborning should support
The lewde in lies, when grace is not their stay ?
Can iustice rule a right with parciall fway ?

Content thy selfe, quoth Patience then to mee :
Good lawes are made to punish their amisse,
But pence their wronge doth couler, oft we see,
And want doth ware the poore mans right, I wisse ;
And thus thou seest presented to thy sight,
The proverbe old, how might doth maister right.

Then out wee goe, I glad to leave this hell ;
But soone wee flipt into as hard a vaine,
Where usurie with bagges of gold did swell,
Who much complainde of penall statutes paine,
And joynde with craft the same for to prevent,
Now this, now that, the myser doth invent.

On casuall chaunce I may my monie lend,
Yet haffard small shall happen by my marte :
If I my wife, my fervaunt, child, or friend,

A perilous
casualtie.

Do goe to Powles, and home againe revert,
Then twentie in the hundred you shall pay :
This gaine is small, forfooth, doth Holdfast fay.

Collusion then did catch him by the backe,
And feafde his pence, which fonge loth to depart.
To levey mends the harmles went to wracke ;
Thus falved was his fore by others smart.
Covetoufnes went myching upp and downe,
His jacket pilde, and threadbare was his gowne.

But banckrowte fure did brave it with the beft :
His cape of cloth with velvet linde within,
His hoafe of filke, with ftitches ftraunglie drest,
More coft, hee faid, more worfhip did him win ;
But well I markt how foone this pride decayd :
His heeles he tooke when debtes fhould be defrayd.

Some kept their houfe, and durft not fhewe their face ;
Some were betrayde, and came in cutthrotes handes ;
Then plees of neede did purchafe litle grace,
Pafte ftarting now, they, tyde in Darbyes bandes,
In prifon vile of force muft lye and rott,
Till they have paid their debt and coft[s], God wott.

Then forth wee goe into a paltrie towne,
Where underprops eche ftagering houfe did ftay.
I chaunfte to meete a fillie countrie clowne,
Of whom I afkt, what wrought their townes decay ?
Who aunswerd ftraight, your mafships honour fees
Yond goodly place ; that pluckt us on our knees.

Yond stately walles our chiefeft stones did steale,
Which were the stay unto our feeble farmes,
For want of strength then did our houses reale,
And, worfe then that, to worke our greater harmes,
Inclosures great fo in our commons creepe,
Where kine wee kept, wee sca[r]se can keepe a sheepe.

Yet racked rentes increafe our landlords gaine :
Wee moile, wee toile, wee worke, both morne and even,
Our landlords reape reward for all our paine.
To pay our rentes, and make the world even,
Doe what we can, wee compasse very hard,
With farmers now the wonted world is mard.

When hee did raife, besides his landlords rent,
Old gold good store, to ferve him at his neede,
The cribel loafe about his bord then went ;
Salt beefe, good fouce, their hungrie mawes did feede,
A stand of ale hee ever had in store,
Well come, gossipe, a cruse of ale to the dore !

Then droyling Dicke, and toyling Tom did sturre
To mucke his ground to make a fatter croppe,
To ferve his hogges poore Madge his maide did spurre :
For winters cold he hedge rows large might loppe,
To ride abroad he seeldome lackt a mare,
And in this fort the fermers life did ware.

But now, God wott, our rentes we hardly pay,
To barlie cruftes is turnde our cribel bread,
Where beefe, brawne, fouce, our hungers did allay,

On cruddes and cheefe wee hungerly do feede,
A pecke of malte doth make him ale good store :
Wellcome, gossip ; no drinke now to the dore.

Where Hicke and Tom, his boyes, about did moyle,
He delves, hee digges, he labours for his hire,
And Joane his wife, perforce herselfe doth droyle :
In steede of woode now pestrow makes good fire ;
Where earft hee ridde abroad upon his nagge,
For falling now on tenne toes hee doth lagge.

Thus John Adroynes did wray the farmers woe,
And I mee thought did pittie much their want.
Quoth Patience then, now time doth serve to shewe
The cause why care thy heavie hart doth haunt ;
Thou sayest thy want is weade with others wealth,
Thy harmes are payfte with weiges of others health.

Good reason why thou viewdst in courtiers trade,
Both good and bad a like did gaine expecte.
A like ? not so, the good by vertuous ayde,
The bad did seeke by traynes of false suspect
The best to throw, from grace despite to spell,
Whilst they by craft did catch such crummes as fell.

Now hypocrites, with shew of honest life,
In favour creepes, when goodmen be disdainde.
Now souldiers winne the field with bloody knife,
When cowards filch which their adventure gainde :
Now cutthrotes thrive where conscience beares no sway,
When simple men with want are worne away.

Loe ! thus thou seeft the toyle of good and badde,
Thy owne the choice their want or wealth to fhunne,
The good with care when craft with coft is cladde ;
Yet if thou meanft the good mans race to runne,
Of Patience here receive dame Vertues fheeld,
Which to thy fame a fure force will yeeld.

Noe poore mans cry the confcience large fhall blame,
Ne common fpeech a cutthroate will thee call,
Report of craft then fhall not wronge thy fame,
Ne men will fay thy pride will have a fall.
This bone he caft for mee to gnaw upon,
And faid, Adieu ; of force I muft begon.

I waking then amafed, in my minde
Through this my dreame, gan checke my bufie braine,
But better wayde fome fruite therein I finde,
Which aunfwers full of this report the paine,
And craves a place of dutie with the reft,
Provided yet the reader do not wrefte

My wordes amiffe ; which doe no evill import,
To taunt the lewde, to praife the good a worke ;
A fancie framde to teach the fimple fort
What huge deceite in honeft fhew doth lurke ;
A toy to warne the lewd by others fhame
To fhunne fuch faultes as breedeth filthie blame.

Inventions of P. Plasmos touching

*his hap and hard fortune, unto the which
is annexed the fundrie complaintes of foure notable
coufeners, the instrumentes of his greatest troubles ;
which, in the prime of their mischievous enterprises,
with foudaine death and vexation were straungelie
vifited. At the end of every of the faid inven-
tions, for the more plaine knowledge
of them, is the Reporters ad-
monition in profe, both plea-
fant and profitable.*

The Reporter.

I have (good reader) at large reported the adventures of P. Plasmos, intermixte with thefe following inventions, together with the complaint of certaine coufeners. And fure the labour ftande very well with my owne contentment, for that the accidents of his evil fortunes might have forewarned other younge gentlemen to have fhunde the like follies ; and that the fall of the faid coufeners might have taught other greedie carrens to have refpect unto their confciences. And nowe to the condition of P. Plasmos in the prime of his unthriftines: it appeareth by his fonde triumph that hee was infected with (felfe love) the overthrow of many younge gentlemen, who feeing fufficiencie in themfelves to bee advaunced to winne credite and acquaintance, fo farre paffe the boundes of their abilitie, that, longe before countenaunce taketh notice of their desertes, by the

inforcemente of necessitie they are gladde of meane maintenance at home with their friendes. Such gallantes, by the sequele of P. Plasmos fortunes, may learne to understande their mishappes, and in reading of his fantasies may likewise see the counterfet of their owne follies ; whose fond triumph in this sort beginneth.

P. Plasmos Triumphe.

Paris usurped roome resigne in lady Pleasures court:
Thy mungrell choice in such a flurte deserves a foule report,
Whose kytish trickes in gadding moode with every checke
to stray,
God knowes, I want both art and witt, in coulers fresh to
wray.

Sufficeth yet thy mart to mare, shee bitt at every baite,
Wher one good turne in toile thou reapst thy passage was
not straight ;
Why wronge I thus poore Hellen now ? shee was to good
for thee,
Whom fate did cast from Priams court a sheepeherd poore
to bee.

Whereas in Ida mount thou wraydst thy willful will, ywisse,
Which wealth and wisedome didst refuse to bathe in wanton
blisse,
Yet fure thy blisse was brude with bale, thy selfe will judge
the fame.
What ! blush not, man, to blase a truth ; in faith it is no shame.

Thy jelous thought supprest thy joy, thy foes increast thy
feare,

Thy love in armes, loude larums wilde embracements to for-
beare ;

Thy kinsmen flaine, thou reft of love and life in little time,
What peevish pride then moves thy thought, dame Pleasures
mount to clime ?

Avaunt, avaunt ! give place to him whom fortune ftill doth
guide,

Whofe choice doth paffe, without her plague, faire Hellen in
her pride,

Within whofe hart doth pittie rule, in whom dame bountie
dwells,

To whom faire Venus yeelds her ball, her beautie fo excels.

Her conftant love, longe wifht, I wonne : fhe mov'de no
goddis yre,

She fhed no bloud, fhe flue no friend, fhee fat no towne on
fire :

Her modest life exiles miftruft, and jeloufie doth chace.
In faith, I feare no lowde alarmes when I my love embrace.

And yet I dare with Paris joyne, if Paris fcorne her praife :
I enter now the liftes of love, my ladyes fame to raife ;

And proudly there my gauntlet throwes a quarrell ftreight
to fnatch,

With him yet dare maintaine fhe lives which may faire
L[a]ymos match.

Let lingring lovers reft of reft, whom fcorne hath left in lafh,
Let carelefs futers try their force to praife their painted
trafh ;

Let happie wightes, which bath in blisse, my sharpe incounter
 prove,
Whom Venus, with aspect of grace, hath linckt to yeelding
 love.

And let them eake, through passing joy which stands in
 pleasures grace,
Bestow their force, if that they dare, my fortunes to
 deface ;
Who bathes in waves of wished blisse, with brave delight
 who maskes,
Who findes amends for every misse, who hath but what hee
 askes.

The Reporter.

It seemeth by this devise folowing, that Plafmos triumph
was but a voluntarie invention : otherwise, if it had beene
devised of any certaintie, his pleasures would a beene of
longer continuaunce. Likewise it seemeth his lady Laymos,
that he so highly commended, was in very deede as fayre
as Flora, as faithful as Faustine, as loving as Layis, as meeke
as Medea, as honest as Hellen, as constant as Cressed, and
as modest as Maria Bianca ; and therefore worthie of estimation.
But digressing from the cause of the invention, for
that the circumstances be long and not greatly materiall,
the reader may vew the vanities of a number, who either
bewitched with the outward blase of beautie, or blinded with
the desire of riches (never examining the behaviour of their
best beloved) hap well, or hap ill, adventure to marrie, who
for the most part are haunted with Plafmos hard fortune,
who pretily toucheth his Laymos inconstancie as followeth.

I dreaming once (me thought) dame Beautie bad me crave
The thing that fed my fancie best, and I the same should
have.

My choice was quickly made, I beautie likt so well,
And yet I fu'de my maistresse might her seemely selfe excell;
Who, smyling in her thought to see my small foresight,
Such one (quoth she) thou shalt injoy, make much of thy
delight.

Unto which ende, forfooth, for Fortune straight she fought,
Who did present a fightly girle unto my wanton thought.
My promise is performde (quoth shee), sweete friend, adieu.
My fancie rendred forthwith thanks, as though it had
beene true ;

But when I wooke, and miste this passing lovely wight,
A murdred fighe the fancie checkte that raide my late
delight,

And fretting forth I goe, fonde fancies for to chafe,
But loe ! by Lady Fortune signde, I chaunst to spy thy face.
Then to my selfe I said, Cease, Plasmos, to be fad,
This is the dame thou didst possesse in dreame that earst
thou had.

Acquaintance for to crave, adventrous boy, assay :
Thou wert not nife, ne I abasht my secretes to bewray ;
I showde thee all and some what I in vision sawe,
Thou wart mine owne by beauties dome, unlesse thou
scorndst her law.

My wordes did like thee well, or praises that I usde,
And smyling saidst, Dame Beauties heft must no wayes be
abusde.

Thus after slender sute thou knowste whom I enjoyde,
But easily wonne, as soone thou wert, through fullon will
accoyde,

And in thy wrangling rage I fawe thee raunge for newe :
I chafte, through fight, Dame Beautie blamd, cause Laymos
was not true ;

Which soone I did recant, and yeelded for to have
My fute performde at Beauties hands, in forme as I
did crave.

I askt a gallant gyrle, which vaild at first assault :
I askte no faith, nor none I found, in whom was then the
fault ?

In him who now will learne to make his match more sure,
And as for thee, thou dost but kinde to stoupe to every lure.

The Reporter.

This wrangling hate feemeth to be but a passion proceeding of Plasmos passing love ; the which digested, made his affection more perfect : neverthelesse, this following invention wrayeth the evill fortunes of rash beleefe and cholericke revenge, after which (for the most) infueth repentaunce : yet for that the sonet it selfe foresheweth but a fitt of disquiet minde, by love occasioned, it shall passe for mee without any preface.

Fowle fall thee, false suspect, so thrive, thou jelous thought,
Woe worth you both, you reard the hate that all my harme
hath wrought :

You did envie my hap when late I liv'de in joy :
You flaunder forg'd, you mov'd mistrust, you made my
soveraigne coy.

Shee, wronged faunce offence, good reason hath to hate,
But you no cause of filthie strife twixt friends to set debate ;

But fith my heart did yeeld fuch motions to beleewe,
Both heart, head, and every veine, with fretting thoughtes
to greeve :

First, love, renue thy force my joyes for to confume,
And when defire hath blowen the cooles till all my fancies
fume,

Then confcience guilt detect my follies day and houre,
And bafe desert exile remorse, fee dreade, my sweete, thou
foure

Disdaine, perfuade my minde : my ladies paffing love
Is chaungd to fcorne, from fcorne to hate, from hate re-
venge to prove.

Tormenting passions eake abate my pride in shoue,
Then scaulding fighes present my ftate unto my friend-
ly foe :

Which when thee once hath feene, with wrecke of my
delight,

Despaire, end me dole with death, in my sweete miftresse
fight.

But leaft she beare the blame of this my bloody hand,
I crave upon my timeleffe tumb this epitaphe may ftand.

*Loe ! heare doth lie his corps,
Himselfe for woe who flue,
That jelous thoughts his lady blamde,
She ever living true.*

The Reporter.

These passionate verfes wittingly loft wheras fayre Lay-
mos might find them, of likelyhoode she perceiving his
fingular good love, having fufficient caufe of quarell, waxed

every day more straunger then other, until poore Plasmos purse, to make atonement, provided some pretie devise that appeased her anger : these lovers thus reconciled, it seemeth Plasmos to requite the friendship of his purse, in praise whereof hee wrote these verses insuing.

P. Plasmos in praise of his Purse.

Come, prettie purse, the jewell of my joy,
The daintie foile wherein delight is sownen,
Thou well deserv'st the title of a joy,
Who doth not feare, whereas thy force is knownen.
Who dare rebell where thou dost rule and reigne?
Thou foylest kinges by force of treason vile,
Thou clokest craft with flattrie, feare, or gaine.
When Justice should uncase his crooked guile.
By thee escapes the traytour and the theefe :
The murderous mate, which languisht late in woe,
Thou werst to ebb their tossing tydes of greefe,
And grafest myrth where mone but late did growe.
To maske with pride thou art a visard fitt,
Thou heav'st him up which held the plough of late ;
Thou telst his tale which wants both art and witt :
Thou wodcocke setst before the wise estate,
The wilie churle which wronges the wretch full oft.
The coufining mate whose mischiefes never endes,
Should *sol fa* singe in coufiners cliffe aloft,
But that thou cloakst their craft with wealthie friends.
The thriftlesse chiilde by thee doth looke full hie,
Whose sparing friends at home the plough doth hold.
In court thou art the badge of braverie :

Who doth not fawne on gentle maister gold ?
Deformed girles by thee are made full faire ;
Dame Venus stoupes through thee to Vulcans lure ;
The coffing churle doth match with beauties heire :
Such straunge consents can lady Coyne procure.
Why stay I then, sweete purse, thee to embrace,
Whose ayde I usde when fortune most did lowre ?
My clowdes of scare thou cleardst with gleames of grace,
My bale to blisse, to sweete thou chaungst my sowre,
Thou fav'dst my life, with passing love me pinde,
Which friendly turnes are written in my minde.

The Reporter.

It is hie time to digresse from the report of Plasmos wanton devises unto other his inventions, touching his miseries and repentance, which immediatly followed his wanton expences ; and, for that want is the contrarie unto wealth, I thought good to place, after the praise of his purse, his complaine of wante : the commodities of the one and the discommodities of the other, duly considered, are meanes to persuade the wise in prosperitie to have an eye unto adversity ; and, once in favour, to make provision for fortunes chaunge. For fewe are so happie but in their time they are visited with miserie ; so wel beloved but once in their life they are as deadly hated ; so highly favoured, but are as unhappily scorned. Notwithstanding all these chaunces and chaunges, coyne in the coffer is an assured friend, whereas if thou have respect but to serve thy present tourne, in prosperitie thou art so over prodigal that, when povertie pincheth, the remembraunce of thy former sweete delights doth increase thy sower passions : proove appeareth by

Plasmos, who, being nipped with neede, calleth to remembrance what pleasures he had received by his purse, and crossed every of the said commodities with the inconveniences occasioned by his want, as followeth.

P. Plasmos Complaint of Want.

I whilome writ a jest, what joyes my purse did plant,
But now I wray with little lust the woes of withered want.
When purse with pence did flow a thousand friends I
found :

Now wonted wealth doth weare to ebb their frendship runnes
aground.

When coyne I had in claw my wronges were doomde for
right ;

Since neede did nippe, my rightfull futes was overwayde with
might.

When wealth I had at wil my wished joyes were wrought,
Now want doth choke those jestes with care, and cloyes my
braynes with thought.

With wealth I freedome wonne, by wealth my woes did
weare,

Through lacke restrainte of libertie doth foyle my hope with
feare.

With coyne I servaunts kept, which served for mine ease,
By neede inforst now am I faine to pray, to pay, and
please.

I rattled then in filkes by braverie of my bagges,
But, pouer man, now am I glad to royst in rotten ragges :
My purse me oft preferd to play in pleasures lappe,
Wel may I wish, but want I shal, by want to reach such hap.

The Reporter.

This complaint folowing sufficiently sheweth that Plasmos, being fomwhat behind hand by reason of his former unthriftnes, having notwithstanding very proper living, unhappilie hit in acquaintaunce with certaine coufeners, who feing his fufficiente abilitie, supplied his want from time to time with monie, till they had wrapt him in very daungerous and cumberfome bonds; fo that hee had no way to winde himfelfe out of their daunger, but either by long leafure, or fellinge fome parcell of his land; but by reason that it was intayled, none would deale with him, until a recoverie were had thereof. Plasmos, having no experience in thofe caufes, and repofing a great confidence in one Liros, one of the faid companions, committed the truft of his recovery unto him; who traiteroufly perfuaded and inftructed by Frenos his confederate, by chaunging and counterfetting of deedes, had purchafte all Plasmos living for nothing, if he and his felowes eagre defire of the poffeffion, by Plasmos untimely deftruccion, had not decyphered their devilifh deceites. But fith the circumftances be longe, and in reporting them I fhould paffe my purpofe, I leave their lewdnes unto their owne reporting; who, in the prime of their mifchiefes worthily vifited with miferies, to difburden their confciences of a number of villanies, hereafter fhall make difcourfe of their owne dealinges. In the meane while Plasmos, having new knowledge of (and not yet remedied) their indirect practifes, and alfo being a litle before maymed on his right hande, by reason of a certaine quarel that Liros had rayfed betweene certaine youthes and himfelfe, the faid Plasmos, joyning the faid mifchiefes with other his evill fortunes, complayneth as followeth.

P. Plafmos to his Mishap.

How should I frame my plaint, how shall I tell my tale?
Whom should I blame, whom shall I bane as worker of my
bale?

Sith heaven and earth are bent to bruse mee with their
hate,

What bootes mee (wretch) to rage at fraude, or raile on
lucklesse fate?

Whom never hap did haunt, but thousand harmes affraide,
In pryme of youth untimely death first tooke my furest
ayde:

Then rose a lawlesse friend that likt my roving youth;
Hee gave mee will to sucke my wealth (alas! the more the
ruth).

I lothed forced thrift, hee liked no expence,
And tutors love not for to toile without reward of pence;
Which lacke to late I rue, the greater mischiefe mine,
But yet my thought, at which offence, perforce, doth thus
repine.

Why scornde I merchaunts trade with baites of fraude to
fish,

Sith craft doth onely compasse wealth and wealth is that
wee wish?

Or placed at my booke, why plide I not the fame?

Why fought I not by morall rules my madding yeares to
tame?

Sith rule must lead our life, or els wee live awry,
Why Aristotles wife precepts then did I not apply?
Why likt I not the lawe, where huge deceites are fowen,
Sith wee by lawe do hurt our foe, and hold that is our
owne?

But leapt to libertie, that longe I did desire,
Why was my hart so set on hoygh beyond my reach t' as-
pire?
Why was I wedded so to peevish will and pride,
Sith pride are will and foes to wit, and witt our wayes
should guide?

But most of all to love why was I, wretch, so thrall?
Why fought I so, by raging lust my gadding yeares to
gall?
Sith neither love nor lust doth yeeld a quiet rest,
Why made I choice of both the evils, when bad was very
best?

Ah (Laymos) once my love, by froward fate my foe,
Ah (Laymos) first by the[e] I knew the workers of my woe,
But (Liros) most unkinde, both spoild of love and ruthe,
Ah (Liros) thou doest wound my heart to thinke on thine
untruth.

Why did I trust thy faith, or feareleffe othes thou fware,
Thy fayned vowes, thy sugred woords, of my welfare thy care?
Sith faith is turnde to fraude and woordes to woorkes unjust,
Why likte I wretch thy wilye tongue, sith treason quiteth
trust?

And did I thus deserve? in faith thy selfe be judge:
If Plasmos had, did Liros lacke? O no hee did not grudge
To give thee what thou wouldst, yea, more then thou couldst
crave:

What cankred thought then mov'de thy minde his life and
all to have?

Whose murdrous marke (ay mee!) my maimed fist can shewe:
Although thou feardst to strike the stroake, the strife thy
hart did fowe,

And should I spare thee, then, of death to stand in awe?
O noe; my conscience bids mee strike, betide what may of
lawe.

Although the worst befall, death quites but death againe,
And sure there is no joy to death to such as pine in paine.
Why misse my hart the blowe that hitt my harmlesse wrist?
My hart it was that wrought offence, and not my faultlesse
fist.

My hart did trust these mates, my hart did sturre this strife,
My hand did nought but make defence to save my fillie life:
My hart devisde the toyes which puffed mee uppe with pride,
My hart inforst my eye to love, which manly fist defide.

And yet my hand, not hart, is plagued for others mis:
Too parcial sure, in my conceite, the heavens were in this;
Too parcial (wretch)? not so: t'was neither heaven nor happe,
But harebrainde youth, which leapt the hedge and left the
open gappe.

T'was youth which stouped first to Laymos wanton lure,
T'was youth that likt the wily wordes which Liros put in ure:
T'was youth, through smal foresight, that wrought poore
 Plafmos thral,
T'was youth, so present want were servd, that feard no future
 fall.

T'was youth that made him maske with visard of delight,
Delight? (not so) but dririe dread to fhunne the merchants
 fight,
And dread the scourge of youth for safegard of me, wretch,
Did lodge me up with needie grieve while craft did play the
 leach.

In deede he playde the leach to ease my present lacke,
But what should serve for future store his phyficke put to
 facke.
He toylde in my behalfe, God wot, I durst not steare,
Least craftie traine should tol me in the merchants wily
 fnare.

And dread did daunt me so, that death I did desire,
Before a life of freedome rest: my hart did so aspire.
A tayle yet cloyde the land which should me frolike make,
Where (Timeles trust) to curtoule it did so the joynt mis-
 take.

That land will bleede to death, if conscience worke no cure,
Such waste wrought haste, for freedomes fake to trust ere I
 were sure;
A pestlence blowe! forfooth, it hurt not lande alone,
But spoyld my fist by filthy strife, and maymd my hart with
 mone.

Of which I youth may thanke ; he snarld me in this snare,
Of force to trust, or else to sterue, with dread, distresse, and
care :

Where trust for best I chusd, although it prov'd the worst :
Such backward hap doth ever haunt the man that is accurst.

The Reporter.

Plasmos digression from one action of miserie unto another,
yea unto all the actions of his mishap (although it be somewhat tedious), duely considered, is tollerable ; for the nature of the distressed man is to call to remembraunce every speciall matter of his misfortune, to the intent (although too late) he may knowe the commodities of their contraries. And sure, although it was invented to ease his mynde of griefe, there be a number of caveats therein to forewarne other young gentlemen to forestand with good government their folowing yl fortunes ; especially the reprehension of his youth, for this is once : brainlike braverie (besides his own great expence) inticeth the greedie churle to hunger after the gallants living, and, for truth, if his conscience be corrupted with craft, it is an easie matter for him to overthrowe the mistrustlesse and welmeaning man. But the mischief is infuing fhame, without a cloke to cover his deceits, who can have no better colour to answer any complaint of coufnage preferd against him, then to say, the compleynant is an unthrift, a quareler, a proude, and prodigall person, &c. who, to maintaine his braverie, departed, *bona fide*, unto him, being defendaut, such and such parcels of lande, the compleynants monie wasted by unthriftinesse, and knowing the defendant to be desirous of quietnesse, to wring more monie

from him, to have the matter quietly ended furmifeth thefe [un]true and flaunderous complaints againft him, &c. And although that wife men, upon the ripping up of matters, will fmell out fuch merchants, yet at the firft fhewe, yea, during the tryall, the wronged youth is blamed, fo that, in the meane time, the greedie carrion, by unkind vexations, enforceth the compleynant to agreement. Some prooffe appeareth by this invention folowing, wherein Plasmos fuppoſeth juſtice to be divorced, and ladie wrong to be matcht with might. It ſeemeth on this occaſion, being wronged by divers lewd and deceitfull companions, he preferd his complaint to certaine commiſſioners: againft them the defendaunts, colouring their couſenage with the report of his unthriftineſſe, and having their anſweres ſoothed with the countenance of more wealthy then honeſt friendes, with [which] ſuche cheating varlots have evermore in ſtore, lead the faide magiſtrates with ſuch indifferencie, that in ſtead of redreſſing, they increaſed his injuries by giving countenance to his enimies: which Plasmos perceiving (provoked to impatience) whereas he came to complaine of one of the two, he departed, exclayming on them all, and at leaſure invented as followeth.

Why do I live (quoth he) to ſee this lothſome light,
Sith juſtice is this day divorſt, and wrong is matcht with
might?

Where couſnage was the clarke, where pollage was the prieſt,
Where deepe deceit, which gave this dame, was father of the
feſt,

Where brydemen were abuſe, where briberie bare the cup,
Where greedie carls, as chiefeſt gueſtes, in every boll did ſup;

Where coyne was cater made, where cost the cookerie drest,
Where catchpoles false did fill the cups at this great marriage
feast;

Where parasites did prate to free each fullen moode,
Where cheting churles did fill their paunch, where poore men
sterv'd for food,

Where countenance once dynde and might have heard his
mates,

Wide open then, but not before, the porter set the gates.
Yet thousandes preast to see the res'due of the sport,
Some cloyd by craft, some foyld by force, for succour did
refort.

But well I sawe (quoth he), which fight I fore did rue,
How blastes of scorne the belly gods among the needie blue;
How wealth did smile at want, how riches railde on right,
How vertue was supprest by vice, how pitie by despight:
How false suspect did forge a thousand flim flam staves,
In rightfull suites to tyre the poore with cost and long de-
layes.

Anon the musicke foundes, and force his office shewd:
Well meaning mindes he wrapt so hard that they his hart
beshrewd.

First fallhoode makes his choice, next flatterie takes his
chaunce,

Then tag and rag about the house deceitfull measures
daunce.

A curious maske at night the bridemen doth ordaine,
With shews of fraud to feed their thoghts, which care not
how they gain.

Abuse did leade the bride, extortion maskt with craft,
To see deceit come hobbling on a hundred carrens laught.

Pure neede to get a place was glad to holde a torch,
But iustice, during all this sport, was placed in the porch.
Good ladie, then (quoth he), alas and well away !
You sometime did possesse this place, this whilome was your
day :

How hapneth lucre hath infected so your mate ?
How chaunceth truth did suffer craft to enter in your gate ?
What though that gaine did sowe some feedes of jealousie,
Might not (remorse) attonement make betweene thy feere
and thee ?

Is conscience nowe exilde, who sometime counfeld might
For to regard dame Justice suite, and not to strive with
right ?

Are honest myndes nowe fled ? doth rigour rule the roft ?
Is iustice now divorst from might ? doth wrong nowe scoure
the coste ?

Doth countenaunce cloake such crimes as iustice did uncase ?
Dare coufeners false defende their faults with shew of ho-
nest face ?

They dare and doe, God wot, by maintenaunce of might.
Why live I then, alas ! he sayd, sith no man favours right ?
With that adieu good hope, and welcome woe (quoth he) :
I see no gleames of grace appeare my cloudes of scare
to free.

The Reporter.

It is more then straunge to see the filthie confederacie of
coufeners, how the wealthy churle, to save him selfe from
shame when his deceites are discovered, useth the names of
such lewd and carelesse persons, as to compasse gaine have
a regard neither to open shame, nor to their secreet confci-

ences : and to tire the compleynant with delayes, such as with bold countenaunce (bolstred with the credite of the wealthy coufiner and his friendes) will abide the tryall of the matter : betide the worst that may, he can be but punished, for once the benefite of the deceite is in Holdfastes handling, so that lightly he that is wronged is like to reape but a colde amendes by his complaint. Among which fellowship of fiendes there is ever an odde lawyer, who secretly draweth their subtile deedes and craftie conveyances, and privily giveth them instructions how to deale in their lewd causes. To forewarne all men of this packe of pick-purses (making prooffe by his owne hindersaunces) Plasmos describeth a coufiner as followeth.

P. Plasmos description of Couseners.

A lawyers head to drawe a craftie deede,
A harlots looke to witch with wanton sight,
A flatterers tounge with sugred words to feede,
A tyrants hart to wound the harmeleffe wight,
To toll with cheare a greedie gluttons gorge,
A merchants mouth of falshoode truth to forge.

A scriveners fist, by nimbleness to race,
To scrape, to forge, to counterfet a name ;
A lackies leg to trudge in every place,
A desperate mind, which dreads no kinde of shame :
These lims well linckt, and fet on coufeners foyle,
A worke were fure of all the divels the toyle.

For each of them a fiende in force can binde :
Yet some, I graunt, by vertue guides their place

But fildome tis that kit ne followes kinde :
If one be good a score doth want the grace ;
But all in league their dealings lewde beware,
For then they do the divell and all of scare.

The Reporter.

The philosopher Diogenes sayth, that nature to this intent bestowed two eyes and two eares, and but one tounge on any man, that he should heare and see more then he should speake : and sure who soever unadvisedly flaundreth another hurteth him selfe. In matters of controversie, who so feeleth his suite colde straight seeketh by pretie traines to take some advauntage of his adversaries wordes ; to whiche effect the craftie churle complained on for any notable coufenage, to knowe the compleynants secretes, worketh meanes to bring him into extreame passions of choler ; who being greatly wronged will not onely give knowledge, by what countenaunce, and in what court, he will trounse the defendant for his deceit, but lightly unadvisedly voweth to strike him, or calleth him craftie knave, coufening churle, &c. Whereupon the defendant, to worke the compleynants discredite, declareth to some justice of account in what daunger of life he stode in : the compleynant being mischievously and ruffenly disposed, and having colour of wrong for flaunderous words, he claps such unkynde actions on the compleynant, that will he, or nyll he, he enforceth him to agreement. Who so is so wronged may take warning to temper his tounge by Plafmos penance, who being hugely abused, gave out hard (yet true) speeches of one of his adversaries, notwithstanding, by his owne negligence, together

with the extremitie of lawe, he payde roundly for recompence: who to discharge his stomache of griefe, a forrie amendes in fayth, blamed his tounge as followeth.

P. P. Inveſtive againſt his Tounge.

Thy raſh revenge (O tatling tounge!) I rue,
Although with truth thou ſlaundredſt late thy foe.
The proverbe olde by prooſe I finde too true,
Who fightes with words doth wound him ſelfe with woe:
The civil lawe ſo favours fame and name,
As ſtrumpets knowne by wantons oft reſort,
Are ſildome put to any open ſhame,
Les open fight makes prooſe of Venus ſport,
Who ſo is toucht with any foule abuſe,
Though common ſpeech the ſame for truth confirme,
The common lawe the guiltie will excuſe,
If prooſe by oth ne makes the knowledge firme.
Thus wanton fylthes and wily churles are ſcuſ'd,
If ſecretly they worke their foule amis,
Yet needely they which are by theſe abuſ'd,
Muſt have a meanes to uſe revenge ywis;
Where oft their tounge is firſt addreſt to fight,
Whoſe furious threats forewarnes their foe of yre,
Which knowne, he ſtraight doth ſeeke to match their might,
And firſt begins their griefes for to conſpire,
My ſelfe by ſuch makes prooſe this tale is true,
Who weend to feare with threatening words my foe,
At which he ſmilde, preventing what he knewe
Woulde be a meane to worke his overthrowe:
Yea, worſe then that, he tryſt me for me tounge,

With actions houghe for slaundering of his fame :
For which my purse an honest quest so ftuong,
That ever since, in faith, it hath beene lame.
Thus losse to me, no hurt to him at all,
O babbling tounge ! thy rash revenge hath wrought,
Else blowes in lawe had given him cause to brall,
Of both the best, though best revenge be naught ;
For bobs do feare when words, not joynd with deede,
In wrangling mynds more canckred thoughts doth breede.

The Reporter.

I may now, without offence, enter into the plaine discourse of Plasmos following fortunes and inventions ; for I have hetherto layde the cause of his miseries unto his youthfull unthriftinesse, the which I confesse was an instrument : but there were unthriftie executioners of his harde fortunes, whose names and doings, for that it was supposed some of them were alive, according to my commission, I have lefte unreported, wishing them well to fare upon their recompence and repentance.

Nowe returning againe unto P. Plasmos estate, who being wrapped in a thousand miseries and mischiefes, barde of the benefit of his owne living to worke his quietnesse, forsaken of friends in his distresse, and daily tormented with his enimies unkind vexations, looking unto the condition of his former life, his exercises and studies ; and finding his life full of lewdnesse, his exercise to be dallying, dauncing, and fuche counterfet delightes, his studie wanton comedies, tragedies, and discourses, acknowledging these evilles the instruments of his mishap, fought if the refourming of these abuses, would be a meane of his better fortunes : so that using one day

the reading of scripture for his studie, and lighting on the
102 Psalme, intituled, *Domine exaudi orationem meam*, im-
ploying his muse unto a more better use then of yore, he
made his humble submission unto the highest for the release
of his miseries, as followeth.

In gayle of grieve inclosde, of worldly friendes forlorne,
Thy mercy, Lord, to ease my mone, unto my prayers turne.
Hide not thy heavenly face from him that lies in thrall;
High time and tide, good God, it is to heare my plaint and
call.

My dayes consume with grieve, my myrth is mard with
mone,

My hart doth waft like withred grasse, my grave and I am
one :

My flesh with thoughts doth fret, in shew I am a ghosť,
I drencht in bale, my foes in blisse, I harmd, of hap they
boſt.

The world commends their welth, and spites my withered
woe,

Yea, dooms my doings by my dole, theirs by delight in
showe.

Thus wrongd and scornd I am, which croſſe I do imbrace,
Attending when thy mercy (Lord) my miseries ſhall chace,
Which joyne with juſtice thine, to foyle my foes in fight,
So ſhall I praife, and others feare, thy majeſtie and might.

The Reporter.

Plafmos in time wringing him ſelfe out of all the troubles
and miſchiefes that his enimies had wrapt him in, and feing

his estate for his troubles so sufficient as, with good government, he might live in indifferent good credite : on the contrarie part, feing some of his enimies through their lewdnesse starke beggers, and other some of them to dye foudenly and miserably, as well to give God thanks for his deliverie, as for the overthrowe of his enimies, made this sonet following.

To thee (O Lord !) with hart and voice I sing,
Whose mercy great, from dole to sweete delight,
From mone to myrth, my troubled spirite did bring ;
Yea more, thy yre hath foyld my foes in fight :
They live in want that flourisht late in wealth,
They grone with grieve, yea, lack bothe help and helth.

Their conscience guilt doth gall them through their gaine,
And yet they waste more faster then they winne :
Thus sweete prov'd sowre, their pleasure turnd to paine,
Yea, living dyde to thinke upon their sinne.
Their shadowes feard, so fouden was their fall,
But more their death when destenie did them call.

Their mone amafd a thousand wretches moe,
Who fight and shrynkt through motions of deceit ;
To heare report this thundring threat to throwe,
Foule fall the fraude to breede our bale ! a baite,
A bitter sweete, that rots ere it be ripe,
A living care, to foule a deadly stripe.

But how with hap the pikes of harme I past,
Of murderous mates, of myndes on mischief fet,

Whose fnares for me them felves did fetter fast,
Whose baites for me them measht in beggers net,
Inforst men fay, of God, loe here the might !
Which heales the harmd, and lames the lewd in fight.

But I whose scare thy heavenly helpe did cleare,
Will daily sing with mynd, with hart, and voyce,
To thee (O Lord !) be honour, laude, and feare,
Which foyldst my foes and madst me to rejoyce.
Laude for thy grace, and honour to thy name,
Feare cause thy wrath doth put the lewde to shame.

The Reporter.

After that P. Plasmos had throughly passed the pikes of
his troubles, he foorthwith professed a newe course of life ; to
witnesse which reformation (making povertie his excuse) he
sent this following farewell unto fayre Laymos, and other
fine dames of his olde acquaintance : which invention he
termed his farewel to wanton pleasures.

P. Plasmos Farewell to Wanton Pleasures.

Dame Venus, be content thy fervant should depart,
Who long hath bath'd in beauties blisse, yet swam in seas of
smart ;
And willing nowe with losse to leave his wanton sport,
Repentance hath reclaimed him from pleasures statly court :
Good love, my governeffe, thy charge that earst did raunge,
Is well content to carelesse youth to leave his choice in
chaunge.
My colours fresh and gay, my pride in peacocks plumes,

I now resigne to Cupides thralls, whose head with fancie
fumes.

My fugged wordes that earst did wray my suites at large,
My scalding fighes to quench mistrust when jealousie gave
charge,

I will to salve their fore whome false suspect doth byte:
My vaunting speach I give to those which sojourne with
delight,

And fanfie, earst my friend, of force I must forsake,
And lust, my choice, I leave to those which rowes in leachers
lake;

For wisdome rules my will and reason bids retire,
Least frosen feares through faythlesse love doth followe hote
desire.

Expence doth nip my purse, my pride is pincht with paine,
Aspiring mynde hath caught a fall, my lacke is linckt with
gaine:

Yet losse this lesson learnd how pence my pleasure wrought,
Not pleasure pence, but purfes paine, when neede the bot-
tome fought.

A noddie for the nonce, for faithlesse flurtes to flout,
Poore want was rayd in ragged clothes amongst dame
Pleasures rout:

Which picture when I sawe in favour like my lacke,
Disdaine, my thought, did drowne my joy, despaire did bruse
my backe.

Pure neede then prickt me foorth (in faith) good mistresse
mine,

Ere scorne should worke me out of grace my service to
resigne.

For if you rightly wey my want by former wealth,

Your felfe will judge, I can not serve without the ayde of
stealth.

Then wrong will feeke revenge with tryall of his bande,
And iustice foone will sentence give to truce me out of
hande.

Then conscience will accuse my coste in Venus court,
And warne my friendes by these my woes to shun dame
Pleasures sport,

And (loth to dye) will curse the causers of my smart :
Thus with your blame, my o[w]ne the shame, (perforce) I
shall depart.

The Reporter.

After P. Plasmos had bid adieu to these counterfet delights, he made this ensuing recantation ; and sith it behoveth every man that recanteth, to shew with what errours he was led, as well to discharge his owne conscience as to forewarne others of the like, P. Plasmos, in the faide recantation, maketh discourse of love betwixt faire Laymos and him self. Wherein is discovered the subtile sleights of a cunning courtifane.

P. Plasmos Recantation.

Before the world I here recant my life,
I do renounce both lingring love and lust ;
My wanton will with wisdom once at strife,
Hath lost the field, the type of fanfies trust.

My sugred tounge, bepoudred all with teares,
To chafe mistrust from my sweete maistresse mynde,
With simple speach from humble sprite now weares,
That favour I with my sweete Christ may finde.

My scattered fighes which I on earth did strowe,
 I gather up and sende them to the starres,
 As messengers of my lamenting woe,
 Twixt sin[n]e and foule so mortall is the warres.

Sith I repent, no shame it is to wray
 My former life how far from grace it fwerv'd :
 Although from truth I, filly sheepe, did stray,
 As good men God, so I my goddesse serv'd.

Her favour heaven I reckt, her frowning hell :
 I swam in joy when I attaind her grace,
 I funke in noy when she with wrath did swell ;
 Such strange effectes were shrowded in her face.

The religion
 of wanton
 lovers like the
 papistes.

Saint Pandor then my advocate I made,
 Who pynde my purse, yet fead my foolish vaine :
 A thousand scornes with my fond sight did fade,
 My suite in wordes such slender grace did gaine.

As Gods of olde my Goddesse honoured is,
 Which sacrifice of kine and calves did crave ;
 But she inoynd, in penance of my mis,
 For fashion fake, that first I yeald her slave.

With vowe of fayth my suite then must I showe,
 But suites of lawne, with toyes of deeper coste,
 The duties were which I for grace did owe :
 Such costly grace then found were better losse.

But mistes of love did so bedim my eyes,
 That wealth was slave unto my wanton thought,

Glad was my purfe when he the toy espies,
Which with my love a perfect liking wrought.

But I too sharpe did spurre so free a wretch,
He pynde to naught to please her peevish mynde ;
Then lacke too late this lesson did me teach,
I serv'd no faint but one of Sathans kynde.

Who, when she fawe pure neede to play his part,
With jealous speach gan straight to faine debate :
My second choice, she sayde, possesse my heart,
As though pure love had hatcht this fouden hate.

But well I fawe despight did forge suspect,
And jealous speach was fet to colour scorne.
My charge not change did frame with foule defect :
She fained griefe, I, wretch, with woe forworne.

My plees of want then purchase little grace,
She wild me love where I my wealth did waste,
For my nice choice she rekt her selfe too base,
Which here and there in change a new was plapt.

Fonde fanfie then presented to my will
In desperate panges to pine away with paine,
Or purchase pence on top of Shooters hill :
If I escape, my bootie grace would gaine.

For him that earst both hope and hap did vaunce,
To desperat thoughts to vayle his former blisse,
Blame not his mynde to cure this forrie chaunce,
If ventur'd life did worke amends of misse.

And fyth (quoth I) I must a martyr be,
Then burne to naught with blase of Cupides brands
A gentler death is hanging on a tree :
I may escape the bowget makers hands.

In spight of scorne, which haunts my ladies hart,
Then shall I swim in seas of former grace,
And forrow shall finde recompence of smart
With foulded armes, when I my joy imbrace.

These drousie dumps, which drives me to despaire,
Shall purged be with drugs of droynses store :
I glad, he mad, then mumping in his chaire ;
When steede is stolne, too late shall shut the dore.

Thus I, vile wretche, led on by wanton lust,
A triumphe made within my wicked thought,
How I by hap the harmeleffe threw to dust,
Ere I escapd, or had the mischiefe wrought.

But oh ! (sweete Chrif) thy grace this folly stayd,
Thou cleardst my sight which mistes of love did bleare,
Unto whose praise my conscience hath bewrayd
My former life, devoyde of godly feare.

Thou crav'ft (good lord) no other advocate
But prayer mine to purchase heavenly grace,
The which thou sayst doth never come too late,
If I repent when prayer pleades my case.

A contrite hart is the sweete sacrifice
That thou dost seeke, ere we thy favour winne ;

The which, deare God, with fighes and weeping eyes
I offer up in recompence of finne.

Attending still, when triall of my fayth
Shall treade downe death, and Sathan force to reele,
And boldly fay, till latter gaspe of breath,
My soul through faith the joyes of heaven doth feele.

The Reporter.

To make this recantation or repentance more perfect, in
shewe and in deede, he wrote this following admonition
unto him selfe, which he termed his farewell to follie:

P. Plasmus Farewell to Folly.

Farewell, you fading joyes,
Which fancie forst me love :
Adieu, go trudge, your tickle toyes,
Though late, too soone I prove.

O wandring head! leave off
Fonde fancies to imbrace,
And fugged tounge nowe cease to scoffe,
Or others to disgrace.

Forfake, O luring eyes!
To faine the loving art,
And, scalding fighes, be you no spies
To wound a womans hart.

O mynde ! with verfes vaine
No more thy felfe acquaint :
Forfake in time faire Venus game,
Ere age doth thee attaint.

O hart ! on hoyh y fet,
Be warnd by wifedomes lawe ;
So fhalt thou fcape blinde Cupides net,
Of which thou stoodft in awe.

Beware of tenne and foure,
Which be the cheaters fare,
Leaft haffards hard thy sweete do foure,
And make thy purfe full bare.

This double charge I give
To you, unhappie handes ;
From quarels fond y free to live,
As foe to life and landes.

Now laft to you, my legges,
Which be my bodies ftay,
Frame not your gate as men on egges,
Whome bufting doth affray.

Nor yet fo ftoutly ftride
As mens that beares would binde,
For ftately steps bewrayes the pride
Which harbours in the minde.

My other members all,
Be rulde by reafons lore :

Let vertue reigne where vice did ftall,
And former faults deplore.

Leaft future plagues you pricke,
To worke your greater paine ;
For why againft the thornes to kicke,
I count it more than vaine.

Nunquam fero.

The Reporter.

I thinke it good to leave P. Plasmos in this good moode, untill time fitteth (he thus forewarned) for the report of his better fortunes : naytheleffe, for others heede I will make difcourfe of the fouden fal of foure of his enimies, whom Gods iuftice worthily cut off in the prime (or before the accomplifhment) of their lewde defires. The firft of them was Lyros, the only executioner of al his copartners deceites ; who, upon the revealement of his and their mifchieves, fell into an extreme quarterne ague, which haunted him untill his death, he having but one only childe, which foudenly, without any fhew of fickneffe, died : he for feare of arreft forfooke his houle and lived in corners. And yet, to comfort his folitarie life, he oft fong a counter tenure ; he, being before a luftie and able man, became foudenly a moft weake and miserable creature, to accompanie whiche, he loft the ufe both of memorie and wit. And to make an end of his miferies, in fteade of drinke, he dronke poyfon ; fo that fhortly after he was in fhewe a moft lothfome lepre, who thus diftreft, forfaken of friendes, and vexed with his

foes, for want of succour miserably (yet repentantly) died,
whose complaint, almost in order as hee confessed, infueth.

*The complaint of one Lyros, a notable Cousener, supposed
at the houre of his death.*

Amonge their falles by filthie fraude which fell,
Let my mishappe registred be I pray,
Whose wanton toyes, whose wily trickes to tell,
But cheefe of all, whose wofull plight to wray,
No doubt the lewde will bring to better stay;
For whose behoofe, loe! here I paint my thrall,
My happ, my harme, my life, my death and all.

Noe shame it is for mee to shewe my evill,
Though gracelesse life from wisedomes lore did fwerve.
A sinne it were to live and die a devill;
So foule and all with Tantals hope should sterve;
My warning here for others heede may ferve.
Fresh harmes, they say, will force men to beware,
When had I wist comes after still the faire.

Then couseners, first to you my tale I streach:
God graunt my wordes to heale your woundes availe;
But you will say, my selfe doth neede a leach,
To heire my head, to helpe eche perisht naile,
To ridde my scabbes, my leprosie to scaile,
To cleare my eyes, which are now darke and dim,
My nummed joyntes to make both lith and trim.

I neede God wot, if neede could favour winne,
But out alas ! too late doth come the cure,
When God is bent to punish filthie finne.
Though longe hee stayer, in fine hee striketh sure ;
Best therefore then, ere you his wrath procure,
You see your helpe (with his precept agree)
Ante languorem medicinam adhibe.

Provide a salve before that sicknes come,
Provide a mends for finne and foule amisse,
Before Gods wrath your due desert doth dome ;
For note, deare friends, I whilome bathde in blisse,
I swam in joy : my heart at woe did hisse,
I then had strength, with health, and wealth at will.
My hap was cleare, I fawe no clowdes of ill.

Then muse you will to see so rare a chaunge,
As manly force to faile in prime of youth,
As faire to foule, as health to scabbes and maunge,
As hap to harme, as joy to greefe and ruth ;
But listen well, and marke what woordes ensuthe,
And you shall see what forced mee to fall,
What wrought my woe, what turnde my joy to thrall.

First, weene that wealth did puffe mee up with pride,
Next forme and force enforst me to aspire,
Then love and lust into my brest did glide,
Last, fretting thought so set my heart on fire,
That mariage needes must coole my hoate desire.
My choice was good, if chaunge had beene exilde,
But follie, faith and fancie, truth begilde.

He was a
wanton liver.

My wandring will directed mee this courfe,
Which braineficke youth did duellie treade and trace,
And, entred once, I fell from bad to worfe,
I made a pray of every yeelding face ;
Such wanton luft doth follow want of grace :
Ne was this life defrayde with fmall expence,
And I (God wott) had not a mine of pence.

While coyne did laft yet carelefse did I fpend :
A poore increafe can fpring on fuch a roote.
When coyne was fpent ne did my fancies end,
With youth to ftrive for reafon t'was no boote.
No lacke could treade my follies under foote :
While land did laft, my want I did fupplie,
With purchafes of *Dedi, conceffi.*

A backward
purchase.

My living fould, and monie in my purfe,
My lavifh minde had never thought of lacke ;
To gett or fave I quite forgot the courfe,
For every toy my teftours went to wracke,
Which did my bagges unto the bottome facke.
My coyne confumde, and yearely rents thus gone,
What refuge then ? once credite had I none.

Yet live I muft : neede doth obey no lawe,
To worke for wealth yet wift I not the way,
The fcouge for finne did keepe mee ftill in awe :
I durft not fteale for feare of Tyborne play,
And other shiftes I knewe not to affay ;
But, to be fhort, to foone, to foone t'was knowne,
My will was good to take more then mine owne.

Then, wily mates, whose subtile eyes did see
In yonkers states, and markt their youthfull vaine,
Made choice of mee the instrument to bee,
In wanton trackes unwayed youthes to traine;
Their wiles, my wishe, so sweete was speach of gaine,
My tongue was good, my manhoode had in price,
My life was lewde; I knewe and usde eche vice.

He was made
an instrument
to execute
other coufners
devifes.

Companion fitt for rufflers nowe adayes,
Whose wills rule witt, and rage doth reason yoke,
Of which I searcht a crue of thriftlesse strayes,
Whom lewdly I to lewdnes did provoke:
They bitt my baite, but other did them choke,
I bore the name when others layde the bane;
The shame was mine, and others gleande the gaine.

But, oh! I figh, to wray what wrought my thrall:
O, Plafmos! nowe I swoone through thought of thee:
I must confesse, the goad that did the[e] gall
Was too too sharpe for friendship thine so free.
I turnde my coate ere thou couldst fettered bee,
My wanton toyes could hardly thee intrap,
My falsed trust (aye mee!) wrought thy ill hap.

Plafmos the
man hee
abufed.

And must I shewe wherein I was injust?
Shame fayes, conceale, my conscience wil not foe:
I was a friend whose treason quited trust,
A counfeller lewde, that wrought my clientes woe;
Where I was lov'd I hated, save in shoe;
Yea, twise accurst, for mucke his life I fought,
Whose bloud and good for me hee ventred oft.

Hee forged
deedes.

I forged deedes when fayled free consent,
I rafed roules to mend what haft did marre,
I put in ure what coemates mine invent :
My woordes were grave, as firme my friendship ware,
And yet, forfooth, to fhowe what mould I bare,
I prov'de it true, how *Cito ad suam*
Redierint res fictæ naturam.

For though my weedes foresheuede a fettled minde,
God knowes, my woorkes my wanton humour wraide :
The wyfer fort my follies foone did finde,
They fawe full well my fancies were not ftaide ;
Yet Plasmos hee of fraude was not afraide,
And, truth to tell, I baynde him with fuch baite,
As hardly hee could fmell out my deceite.

Officers about
the recovery of
P. P. land
fufpected the
deceite.

Wife officers my falsehooode yet fufpect,
To purchafe land they thought my ftore to fmall,
And all to late to Plasmos they detect,
(As they fupposde) I fought to worke his thrall.
Their forrie newes did nip him to the gall,
Who, like a man of hope, of helpe difmayde,
Reportes the trust through which I him betraide.

Our foule deceite amas'de the hearers much :
They Plasmos wild from greement kept aloofe,
That open fhamme our villanies might tuch,
Our falles would be a warning of behoofe.
Our fraude thus found, before it came to prooffe,
What courfe were beft ? fhould wee confefse our fault ?
Noe, noe ; wee ment to bide the firft affault.

In every court our coufenages did ring,
Which bouldly wee uppon our othes denide ;
For wee that dar'd commit fo foule a thing,
Uppon our othes ne cared though wee lyde :
Yet durst wee not abide till trueth were tride ;
In coufeners clyffes wee feard *sol fa* to chaunt,
Howe fo wee seemde on honestie to vaunt.

Perjurie.

Yea (wretched) I, that bore the blame of all,
Peccavi fount, through pricke of conscience grieve ;
How others scapt I sawe my shamefull fall.
I mov'de my mates to salve our great mischiefe
In time, or wee should suffer much repreefe ;
But they that usde their coufenage in my name,
If worst befell, knewe I should bide the shame.

To make amends would never yeeld consent :
What should I doe ? still Plasmus shot at mee ;
Falso Frenos yet the mischiefe did invent,
I plowde the lande, the profite reaped hee ;
Hee bounde me so, faunce him I could not gree,
And thus through neede (which I to show abhorre)
Against my will, looke, what hee would I fwore.

Frenos, the
scrivener that
devisde the
coufenage.

Our coufenage known, our likelyhoode of paine,
My earnest sute to some good end to growe,
Once mov'd him not to leave ill gotten gaine ;
Hee never blusht in conscience nor in shewe,
But craft on craft hee layde to heape our woe :
T'ware straunge to heare the wealthy friends hee found,
Which joynde with him to make our fraude seeme found.

And boulstred thus for flaundring us with truth,
 Our actions huge poore Plasmos overlayde :
 Wee knewe in neede friends faild, the more the ruth,
 Thus double wrong'd (his huge distreffes waide)
 To cleare his land good store of coyne hee paide,
 Least share whereof, in faith, to mee did fall,
 Yet of this end I was the glad'ft of all.

From open shame my selfe I judged free :
 I tooke no heede to salve my conscience gall,
 But God, that doth all secrete dealinges fee,
 Provided whippes to scourge our finnes withall ;
 And I that bare the blame of Plasmos thrall,
 As sure I was the instrument of it,
 The first man was that God with vengeance fmit.

His miseries.

His sonne fo-
 dainly died.

A quarterne
 ague.

My onely child, which should have had the land
 With Plasmos bloud that faine I would have bought,
 Not sicke in fight, first dyed out of hand ;
 Which heaue hap distempered so my thought,
 As straight I was into a quarterne brought,
 Whose frosen fittes brought downe my youthfull pride :
 Do what I could, it held mee till I dide.

He brought
 himselfe in
 daunger to
 play the cou-
 fener for others
 commoditie.

His instru-
 ment.

A house I kept till I to coufening fell,
 But loe ! beguilde even with mine owne deceite,
 My house I left, and did in corners dwell.
 To lay mee up still Plasmos lay in waite :
 Sometimes I was caught with a fergeaunts baite,
 And through a grate *Presta quesimus* founge :
 With care on care thus daily was I stounge.

I that sometime had wily witt good store,
As one bestrackt forgot what late I spake.
For all my cheates still was I very poore,
My friends did faile, none would relieve my lacke,
On every side I (wretched) went to wracke :
Yea, Frenos, he that drue the coufening plott,
Devourde the gaine, and gave mee never a jott.

He lost his
wit.
He lost his
memorie.

His friendes
forfoke him
in povertie.

Two yeares well nie I lived in this woe,
God wot, not worth the ground whereon I went ;
And when I thought my joyes againe would flowe,
Unhappie I (that Plafmos murder ment)
Unto such ire the hie Jehova bent,
That (ah!) in steede of drinke my thirst to flake,
I poyson dronke, my timeleffe ende to make.

See, coufeners, see my present lothsome state !
Loe, here the ende of all my wanton race !
Behold the man that was so frolicke late,
A leaper, foule in body, legges and face,
At point of death, cryes out to God for grace :
A warning fayre, a mirror full of mone,
For greedie churles a bone to gnawe uppon.

Amende in time, before Gods wrath you sturre.
Beware by mee, false Frenos and the rest,
Quod differtur, be sure, *non aufertur*,
Unlesse even from the bottome of your breast,
You both repent, and to amends are preast.
Loe here my tale and life will have an ende.
God pardon mee, and graunt you to amende !

The Reporter.

The miserable end of Liros rather wrought a feare in strangers unto the horrible coufenage, then any repentance in false Frenos and other his confederates : so hadeneth the devil the heartes and blindeth the sightes of the reprobate, as neither the example of other mens miseries, nor pricke of their owne consciences, can reclaime them from lewdenes. And yet although a while they wallowe in their wickednes, and seeme to holde the inticing drosse (I meane wealth) of this world at will, in the pride of their prosperitie (the most part of such worldlinges) throughe Gods justice are divorced from their vaine delightes. The soudaine fall of this Frenos proveth both the one and the other ; for notwithstanding he sawe the wretched death of Liros, and knew that Liros did execute nothing but his devise and direction, yet seemed hee no wayes to be vexed in conscience for his offences, being the author and only advantage reaper of his deceite : and yet in the heate of his unconscionable provision, he was soudainly arested with death, whom you may suppose, as one amased with such soudaine visitation, striving for life, to tell this disordered tale following.

Frenos Complaint.

I see (quoth hee) death spares no sortes of men :
Our bagges of drosse may not withstand his might,
To moyle and toile for pelfe what bootes it then ?
No whit, God knowes, if wee could see aright ;
But worldly cares our minds bewitched foe,
As thoughtes of heaven filde in our brestes do dwell.

The proverbe faith (the more fuch fathers woe)
Happ' is the childe whose father goes to hell;
But fuch proverbes more common are then true:
Silde children keepe that fathers lewdly gett.
And, trust mee, wealth, if after want enfue,
With double grieve the needie thrall doth frett:
To what ende then, for mucke, take wee fuch care?
To damne our selves, and worke our childrens scare.

Goods ill got
are lewdlye
spent.

O wicked world! so sweete thy torments feeme,
That when men taste thy drugges of vaine delight,
Their onely heaven thy thralles do thee esteeme.
With mistes of mucke thou blindest so their sight,
That (wretched) they whilst that in health they live,
As fwine in myre, do wallowe in their faultes.
An others fall, nor conscience can them meeve
To waile their finnes till grislie death affaultes;
The thought of whom as thornes do pricke mee (wretch).
Alas! mee thinkes I see his ghastly shape:
What did I meane to name him in my speach?
And can I not his furious force escape?
Oh noe! my finnes beginneth now to swarme:
To matche with him my selfe howe should I arme?

When death
attacheth the
wicked, the
thought of
their sinne is
more grevous
then death.

My conscience cryes, confesse thy wicked life.
My wicked life fuch monstrous fraude presents,
As in my selfe I finde a hell of strife:
My gracelesse deedes the hope of grace prevents.
I see, I see, howe fierie fiendes do yell,
Before hie Jove my wicked foule to have.
My secrete finnes condemnes mee (wretch) to hell:

Our owne
finnes gives
evidence
againſt us
afore the
higheſt.
Bible.

They be ſo huge that nothing can me ſave.
Where is the booke wherein Gods will is writ ?
They ſay therein is balme that finne can cure.
What ment I (wretch) ? I never ſtudied it.
The booke is large ; my life will not indure,
So longe as I may reade, and reape ſuch grace :
The fault is mine ; I might while I had ſpace.

I faint, I faint ! my life will needes away,
Falſe Frenos now of force muſt yeeld to death.
Theſe farewell woordes, good friends, yet note I pray,
Prepare your ſelves ere latter gaspe of breath :
So ſpend your lives as if you daily dyde,
Leſte *tarde* you by death (perhaps) be tane.
Note well my fall in top of all my pride :
Before I wiſt, hee gave mee (wretch) my bane.
My worldly wealth, for which I tooke ſuch care,
I needes muſt leave in no good order fett ;
A ſoudaine chaunge, the chaunce yet nothing rare,
This is the prooffe of goods that fraude doth get.
Loe ! this is all that death will let mee ſay ;
But what is ſhort may beſt be borne away.

The Reporter.

This diſordered complaint of Frenos is anſwerable unto
his diſordered dealing, but moſt of all unto his ſodaine
death, who, having his conſcience unprepared, tormented
with the multitude of his finnes, ſtoode amazed what to
ſay : and yet howſoever it hange together, it conteyneth
matter of note, which I leave to the cenſure of the diſcrete

reader. And now to the rest of this report: the next that death mett with in this tragedie of couseiners, was Caphos, a merchant, whose name Frenos used in divers of his craftie conveyances, for that (if neede so required) hee had friendes to countenaunce, monie to defend, and an indifferent honest report to couler their lewde practises. But notwithstanding his monie, couler, and countenaunce to set an honest shewe, in the sight of the world, of his subtile practises, now that death attacheth him to make his accompt before the hieft, you shall heare in what arerages he findes himselfe.

Caphos Complaint.

The proverbe faith, as good wee eate the devill,
As sup the broth wherein his body boilde;
As good wee do, as give consent to evill,
Which forrie doome my coloured scuse hath foild.
My conscience throbs, though I no fraude devis'de:
My onely name, that shadowed foule deceite,
In God his sight with Frenos fall is pris'de;
I feele my finnes pluckes downe my soule with weight;
Yea, Lyros and false Frenos both, I knowe,
But leade the way that I must shortly goe.

Farre yet I am unfit for such a journie,
My compt falls short that I to God must give;
If hee charge mee with filthie perjurie,
It will not serve (to save mee from reprove)
To say how that, for feare of after shame,
A manifest untrueth I durst not sweare,
But Frenos gott a post knight of my name,

A pretie kind
of perjurie.

In steede of mee, that did both sweare and steare.
I must confesse I gave thereto consent,
And God, no doubt, will punish my intent.

Note.

My subtile sleighes to shadowe foule abuse
May well lye hid, and no man knowe the same ;
But God doth knowe the fraude I put in use,
(For others heede) deserved open shame.
The man that is with sicknes never vext
Hath feeldome care what kinde of meate hee eates,
When such as are with surfets oft perplexed
Seeme daintie still to feede on divers meates :
In worldly churles observed is the like,
They feede on fraude till infamie them strike.

Marke well my woordes, you (worldlinges) of all fortes,
But, citizens, your natures best I know :
There are [of] you have meetely good reportes,
For riches fake and outward honest shewe,
But how you get your monstrous heapes of gold,
Your conscience knowes, and I can somewhat tell :
Your secret craft so feeldome is controld,
As what you gett you thinke you gett it well ;
But how so heere your reckonings seemeth true,
A day will come when you shall count a newe.

Bee you reclaymde by others foudaine fall,
Sighe for your owne when others shames you see ;
Thinke that they are but patternes of your thrall,
If justice should on you avenged bee.
A thousand wayes the highest seekes to winne,

Our worldly mindes from love of worldlie joyes,
But if wee still will wallowe in our sinne,
The plagues are sharpe with which he us destroyes:
To stay whose wrath I hould the next way is,
While wee have space, to sorrowe our amis.

Death comes, God wot, even like a myching theefe:
With conscience cleare some wardes his wily blowe,
And some, againe, hee gawls with foudaine greefe,
Whose thoughtes of sinne doth worke their double woe.
Had I but wayde the halfe that now I wray,
My coemates endes had made mee fitt for death;
But that is past: this is my onely stay,
Gods mercie salves at latter gaspe of breath,
And yet thereof let no man hope to farre:
Presumptuous finnes of all the greatest are.

A sweete
comforte.

Presumptuous
finnes.

The Reporter.

It seemeth, by the deposition in Caphos complaint, that the direction from time to time (as concerning the afore reported coosenage) came from some subtile head. But whose devise or direction soever it were, there is yet an other (a lawyer, it seemeth, by the order of his complaint,) that findes his conscience infected with Lyros, Frenos, and Caphos fellowship; who, likewise attached with death, you may suppose, with a troubled minde, to wraest out this following complaint.

Pimos complaint at the houre of his death.

Aye mee! (quoth hee) the case is altered quite:
My wylie skill that chaungde the sence of lawe,

My cunning pleas that made a wronge seeme right,
 Are nowe the bones whereon my conscience gnawe :
 They force mee graunt the good from evill I knewe ;
 The good I left, the evill too late I rue.

The common
 lawe was taken
 out of Gods
 lawe.

The common lawe, the which I studied longe,
 I finde, condemnes mee, wretch, of many a crime ;
 The lawe it felfe (how so we wreast it wronge)
 Of God his lawe was founded in the prime :
 Then since in one they both agree in troth,
 Abuse of one must be abuse of both.

And fure the one I turned as I list :
 If I were wrong'd, the lawe amends could make,
 If I did wronge, the lawe such power mift,
 The case was chang'de, the wronged might go packe.
 Such helps I had, such quilletts of delay,
 That all seem'de true, that (subtile) I did fay.

The divel de-
 clares our
 offences before
 God, our con-
 science is the
 witnes of our
 wickednes.

But nowe I am attached to appeare
 Afore a judge at no mannes faultes that winkes :
 The divell declares, how I have lived here,
 My conscience guilt gives evidence, me thinkes.
 To learne the laws sith studie I did vowe,
 For breach of lawe I am indited nowe.

Before my God, mee seemes, I charged am,
 For ayding those with credite, coyne, and skill,
 Whose lewde deceites deserved whippes of shame,
 And that to make me guiltie of their ill,
Consentientes (your lawe fayth, Jove doth fay,)
Et agentes, plectentur pari pena.

My guiltie minde confeffeth streight the act,
Falso Frenos fraud was bolstered up by mee ;
Condemnde of this, streight comes another fact,
I wronged men against all equitie,
When lawe doth say, *hoc facias alteri*,
In right and wronge, *quod vis tibi fieri*.

This bitter doome, given by the doome of lawe,
Mee, sinnefull wretch, as guiltie striketh mute ;
The men I wrong'd within my conscience gnawe,
I spared none through pittie, nor through fute :
What lawe did give, since I for vauntng tooke,
In breach of lawe should I for favour looke ?

O noe ! I must in proper person pleade
Plaine not guiltie, or guiltie of the crime :
No forreine plea may now delayaunce breede ;
Untraverst goes the *venu* and the time,
No advocate or letters here may serve,
The judge is bent to judge as I deserve.

Note.

I guiltie am, I must of force confesse.
By ignoraunce these faultes yet would I scuse,
But I, vile I, that had men in distresse,
And did their pleas of ignoraunce refuse,
Mee thinkes that God doth rule me ore with this,
Non excusat ignorantia juris.

Ignoraunce
will not serve.

And thus I lye, with deadly sicknes pinde ;
Yea more, my foule beseng'd with sinnefull greefe,
The more I seeke to pacifie my minde,

The further off I (wretched) find releefe.
My dealinges great, or rather great deceite,
Fall out so lewde as I no count can freight.

The foule and
flesh are at
continuall
warre.

Do what I can, the cause that causde my joy
When fleshe and bloud was fedde with worldly gaine,
Is nowe the cause that causeth my annoye.
Now feare of hell in place of fleshe doth raigne :
The foule and fleshe impugnes the other so,
As what likes one doth worke the others woe.

What meane wee then (sith th' one wee must displease)
To serve the flesh, that beares no lasting sway,
And leave the foule, that covets still our ease,
Who (foyling flesh) in heaven doth live for aye?
What worser match can any creature make,
Incerta then, *pro certis* thus to take?

O sinfull wretch! had I this ende foreseene,
I had not nowe come short upon account :
I would have lik't and lov'd the merrie meane,
Which ever doth to reckoning best amount ;
For violents do sildome long indure,
They alwayes come from fortune most unsure.

O wicked man! had I seene heaven in thought,
Had I serv'd God like as in shewe of zeale,
I had not thus for poore mens livings fought,
Nor purchast hell for lande for others weale.
Had I well wayde how tickle was my life,
I had ere this appeasd my conscience strife.

Or had I thought (O most unhappie wight !)
Looke what I gave that meafure fhould I reape,
I fure had given to every man his right,
This wicked world had not luld me afleape ;
I had not then bene carelefse of my end,
My foule had watcht deathes furie to defend.

But (oh !) in me the contrarie was plaffe :
I was intyfte on baytes of finne to feede,
Which charm'd receits feemde fuger fweete in tafte,
But (oh !) they fay, fweete meate fowre fauce doth neede.
Neede, or not neede, I prove the proverbe true,
My brittle joyes my endlefse woes do brue.

My confcience loathes what liked well my life,
My confcience rues the gaine I got by guile,
My confcience feelles the woes of wrangling ftrife,
My confcience weepes at that my life did fmile,
My confcience bleedes through that life thought a bliffe,
My confcience wailes what life thought not amiffe.

Well, fith my life this wretched woe hath wrought,
Would God my life (nay death through foule abufe)
Were noted fo as all men might be taught
By fcriptures rule their talents here to ufe,
And fpecially about their ftudies wall,
For lawyers heed, would God were writ my fall !

Through fight whereof, no doubt, they would refufe
To fifh for gaine with nets of foule deceit ;
To worke delays they would no pleadings ufe,

They fure would thinke they had account to straight :
 My vexed mynde at death ftill in their eye,
 Would will them live, as they did dayly dye.

If to fuch good my fouden fall would prove,
 Would life would laft to tell a larger tale !
 But howe it prove, in vaine for life I move,
 Death nowe affaults, and (wretched) I muft vale :
 My breath doth fade, the bell doth found away
 From whence I came, I needes muft turne to clay.

*The Reporter's conclufion, as touching the report of Paulus
 Plafmos adventures, and Lyros, Frenos, Caphos,
 and Pimos falles.*

Who telles a tale at large of others fmart,
 In his report fome errour needes muft shape :
 Some blamed are, fome praisde, beyond defart.
 In this difcourfe (fuch flaunder to efcape)
 It feemd me beft to ufe but notes of heede,
 And leave at full for to report the deede.

Yet fome will fay, I wrong poore Plafmos here,
 To make his youth the caufe of his mifhaps,
 When he, good foule (who fraude did little feare)
 Was flily fnarld in sneaking coufeners traps :
 In deede, my heart did bleede his plaints to showe,
 And much I blamde the workers of his woe.

And yet, forfooth, what fo of him is fayde,
 In my conceit is nothing fayde but truth,

For fure his woes, if they be wisely wayde,
Some wayes may be imputed to his youth ;
For first of all, his braverie was the bayte
These cousefners mindes that egged with deceite.

Then, sith him selfe was guiltie of his thrall,
His fortunes wrayd may wanton gallants warne
From rash clyming, for feare they catch a fall ;
And by his woes unwayed youthes may learne
To trust them selves, fewe others out of sight,
For timelesse trust wrought Plafmos much despight.

And for their falles, by fraude that fought to mount,
Although that they not halfe their faults report,
Yet in their plaints are notes of good account,
Forewarnings faire, and words of mylde exhort ;
And for the rest (how so they liv'd awry)
Let it suffice, they did repentant dye.

EPILOGUS.

Loe here the fruits that growe of felfe conceits !
Loe here their falles that leape before they looke !
Loe, gallants, here the sweete inticing baytes,
Wherein lyes hid the coufeners poysoned hooke !

From maskes of pryde here are the visards pluckt,
Of dogged dice, loe here the deadly yll ;
See here how drie the lovers purse is fuckt,
That yealdes to please a wanton ladies will.

Who noteth here what treason lurkes in trust,
Before he trust may haply learne to trie :
Who fees faire words fauft here with workes unjuft,
May have in fcorne the fhewes of flatterie.

Who marketh here the bitter end of frayes,
Of more emprife may holde a quiet life.
Who feeth here in lawe the long delayes,
May love the worfe to live in wrangling strife.

Without good heede, who fo in court doth plant,
May here perceive his beggerie in the end.
Who wayeth here the woes of withered want,
Were worfe then mad beyonde his boundes to spend.

Who would avoyde the snares that worldlings fet,
And who would knowe their wiles and foule abuse ;
Who hath defires an honest fame to get,
Who in his kinde inticing golde would use,

May here finde rules his life for to direct.
Here lives their fames, that vertues fouldiers ware,
And here againe their dealings I detect,
To fwimme in wealth that will no vauntage spare.

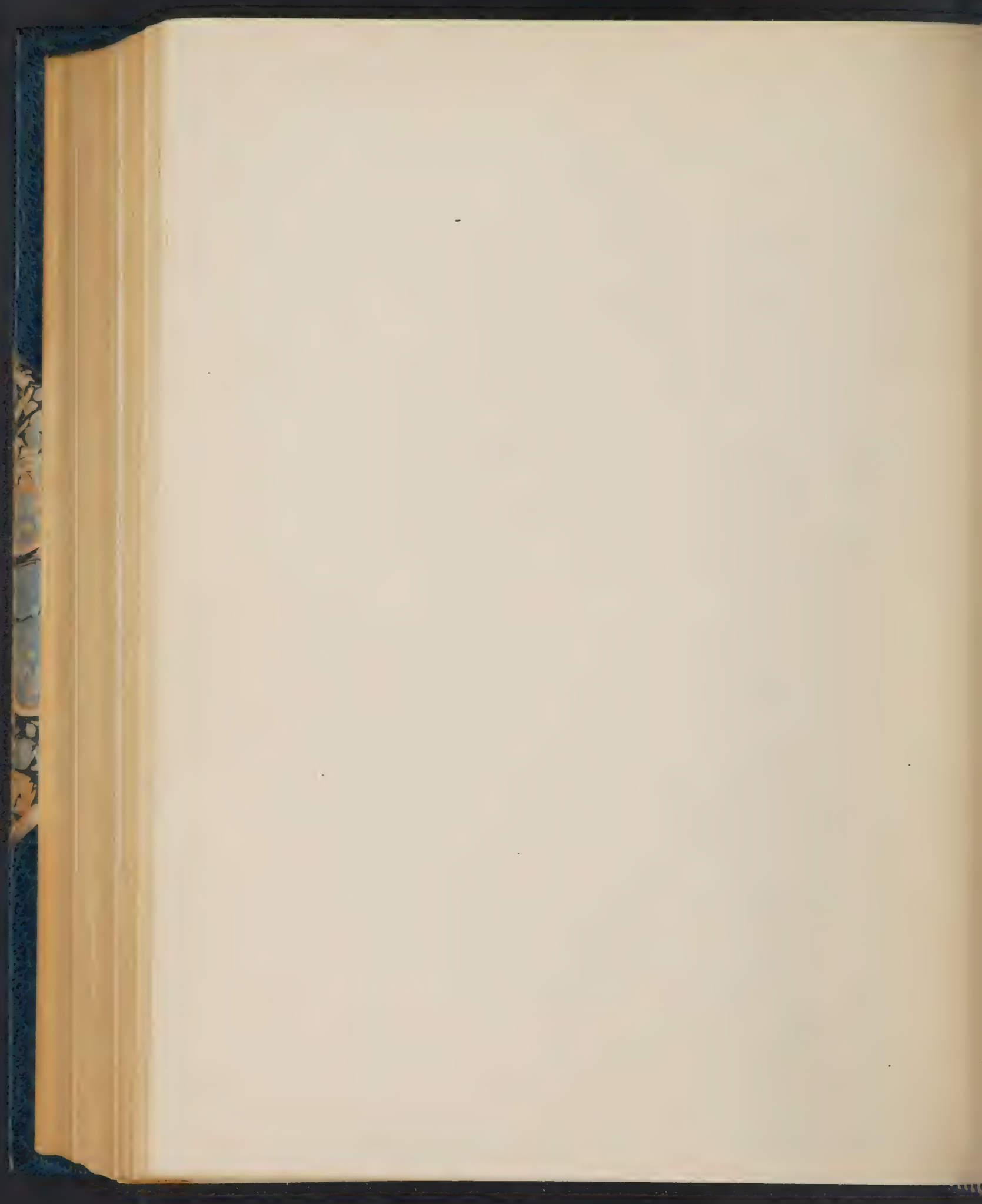
Here, here discourst may worldlings see their falles,
Which wey not how, so riches they may winne :
Here may they see, how fore Gods vengeance galles,
When he is bent to punish filthy finne.

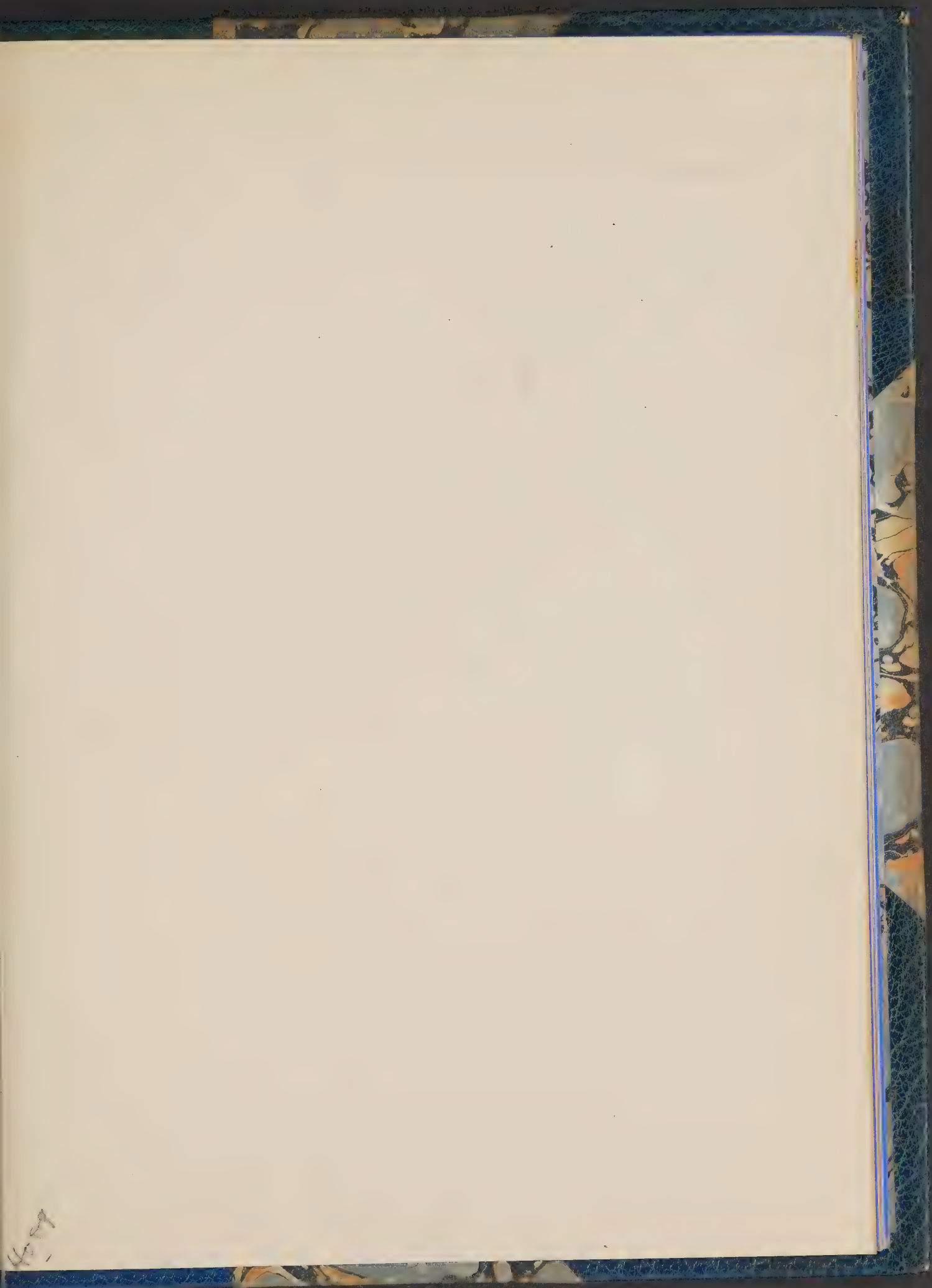
All this and more my Muse at large reports,
All this my Muse (for your availe) did hit ;
In lue whereof she friendly you exhorts
To take in worth what of good will is writ.

Quod cavere possis, stultum est admittere.

FINIS.

¶ *Imprinted at London for
Robert Waley.
Anno 1576.*





45-89

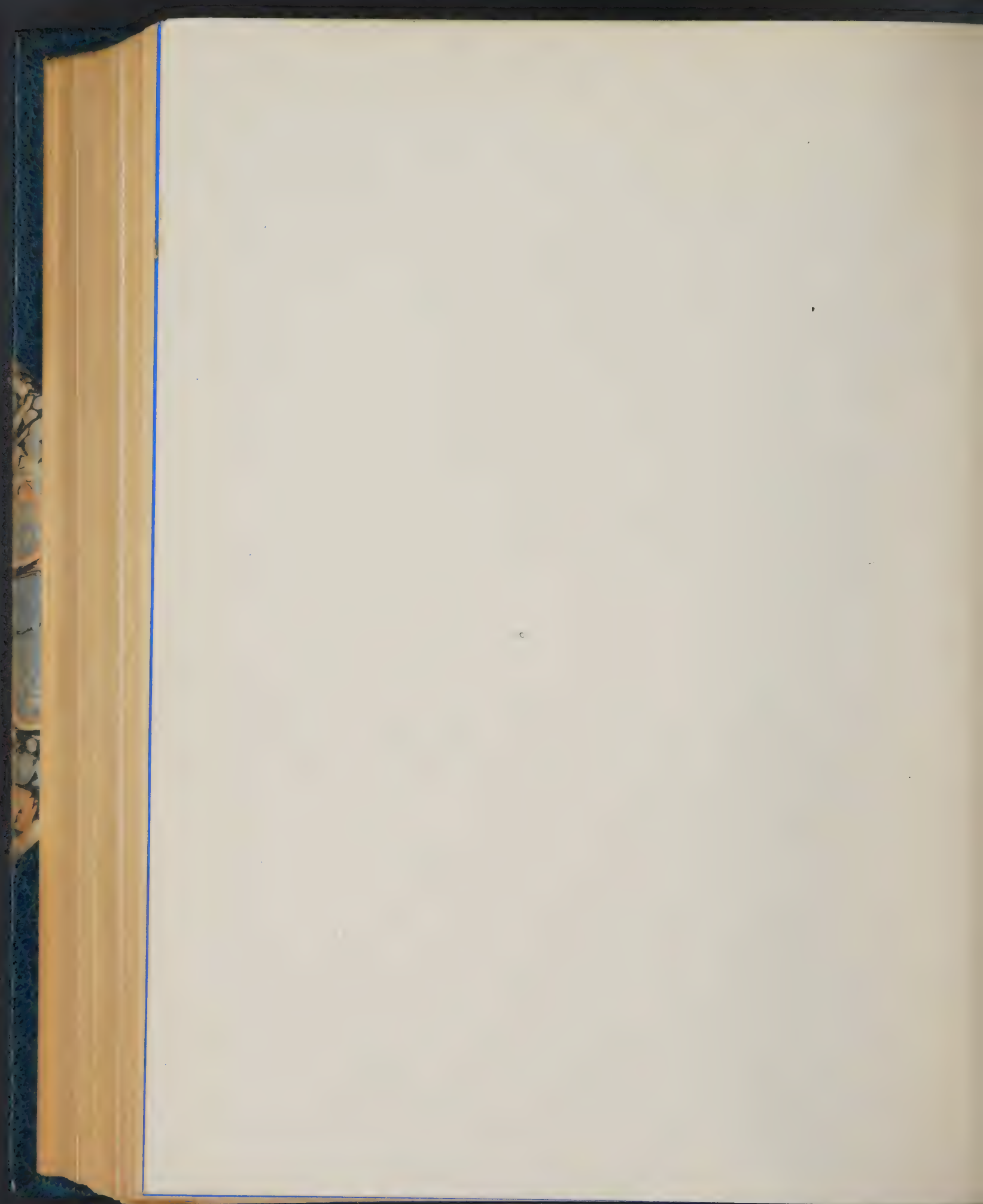


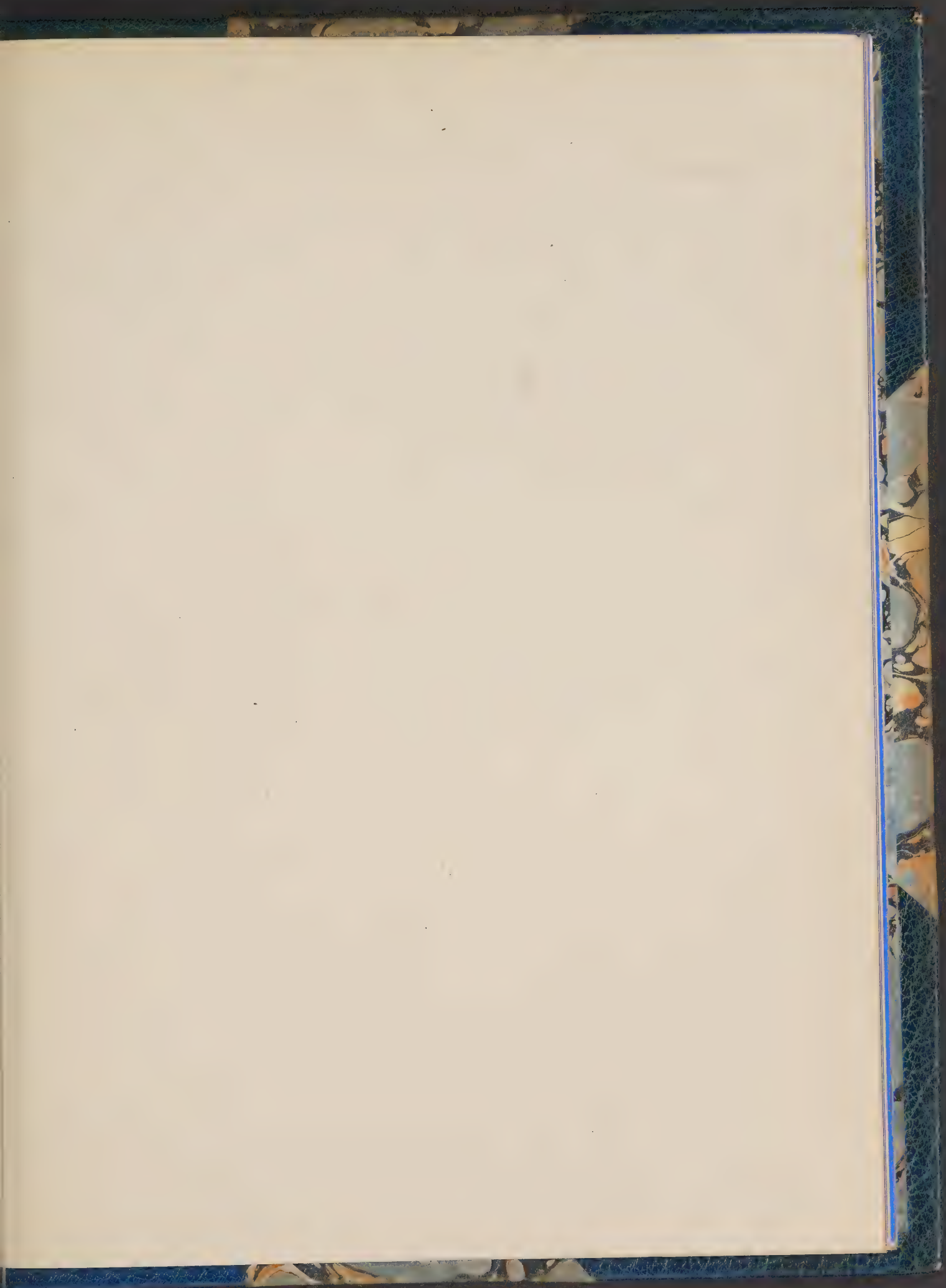
St. Raphael 27

Churchyardes Chippes.

1575.

PART II.

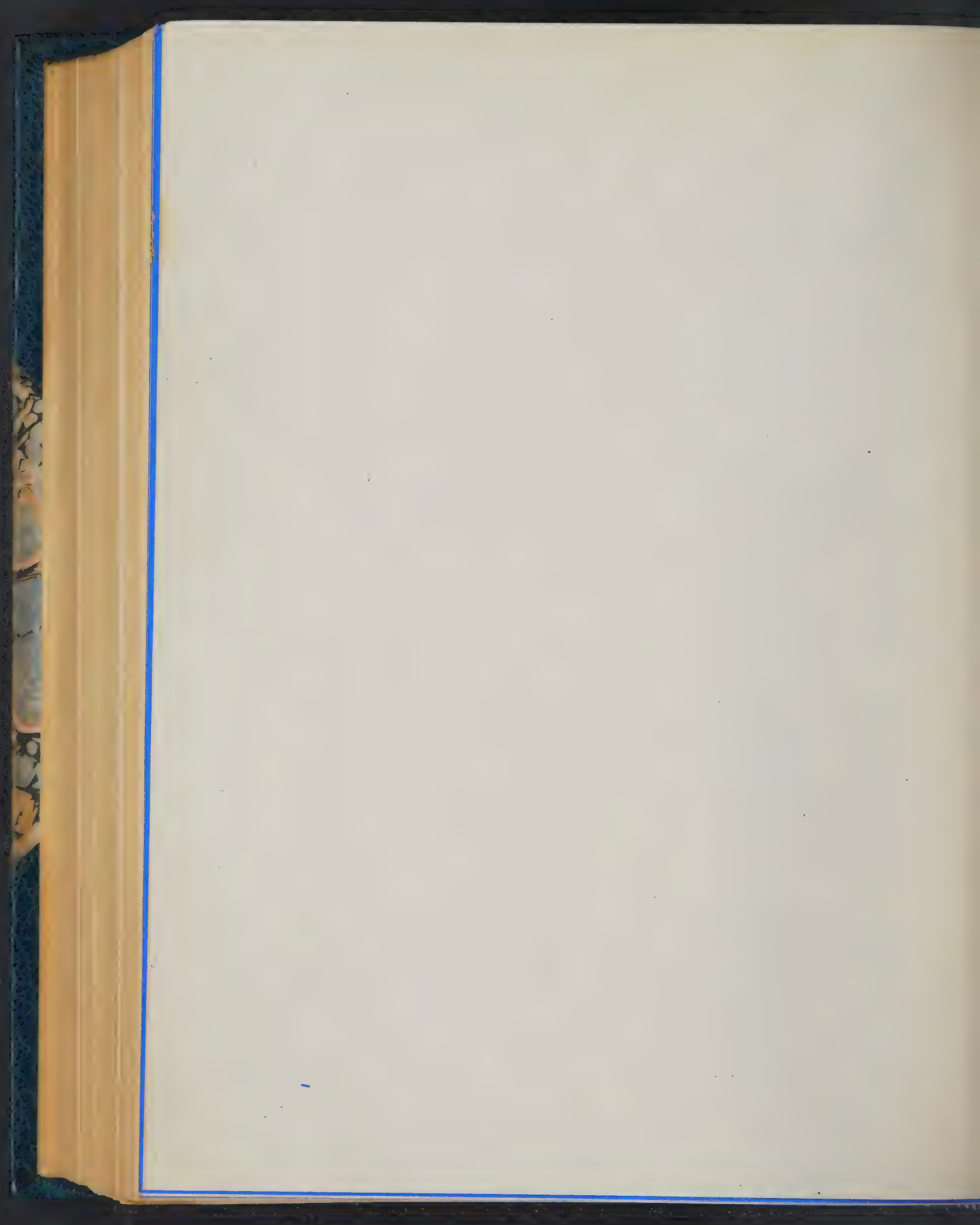


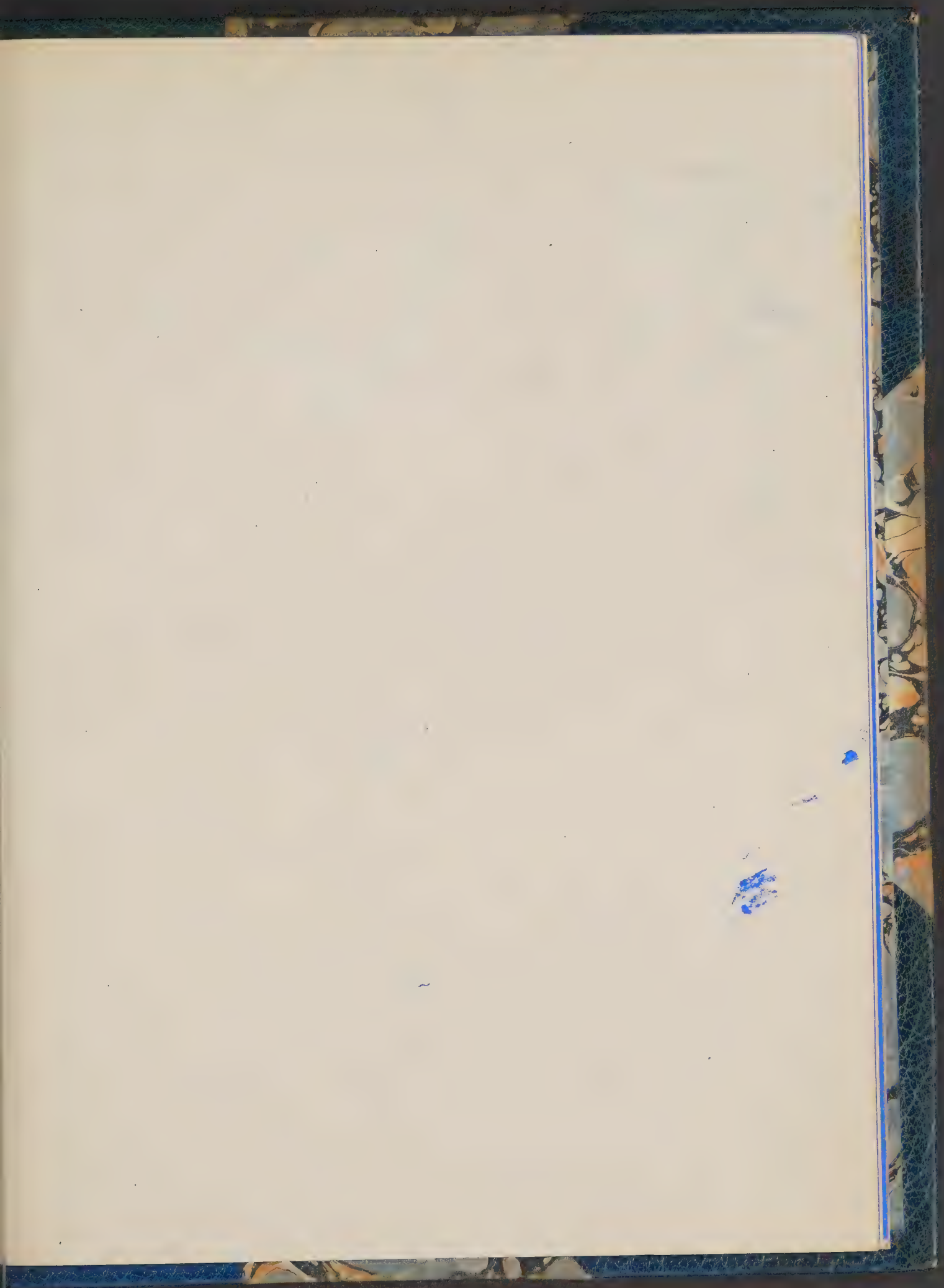




Whetstone's
Rack of Regard.

PART I.

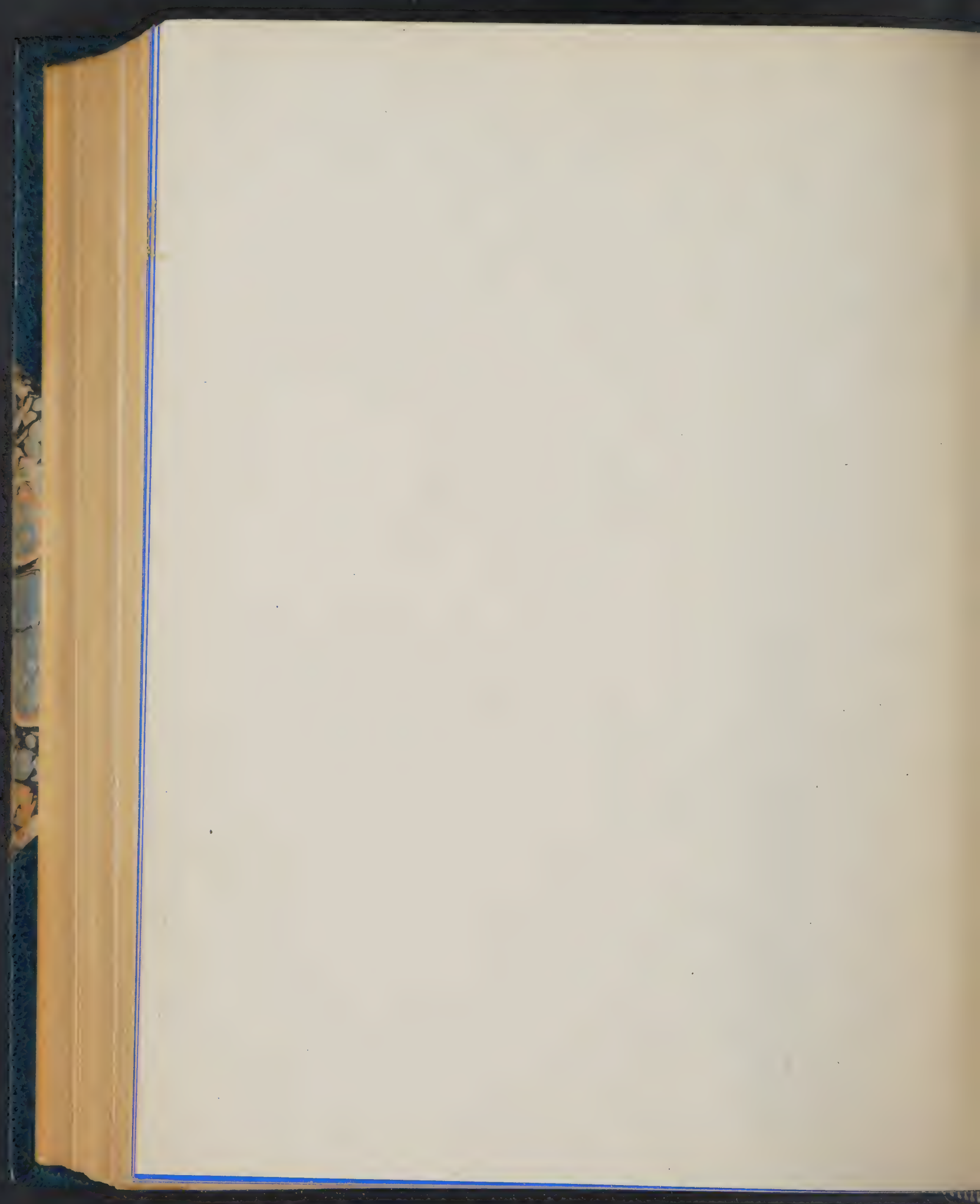


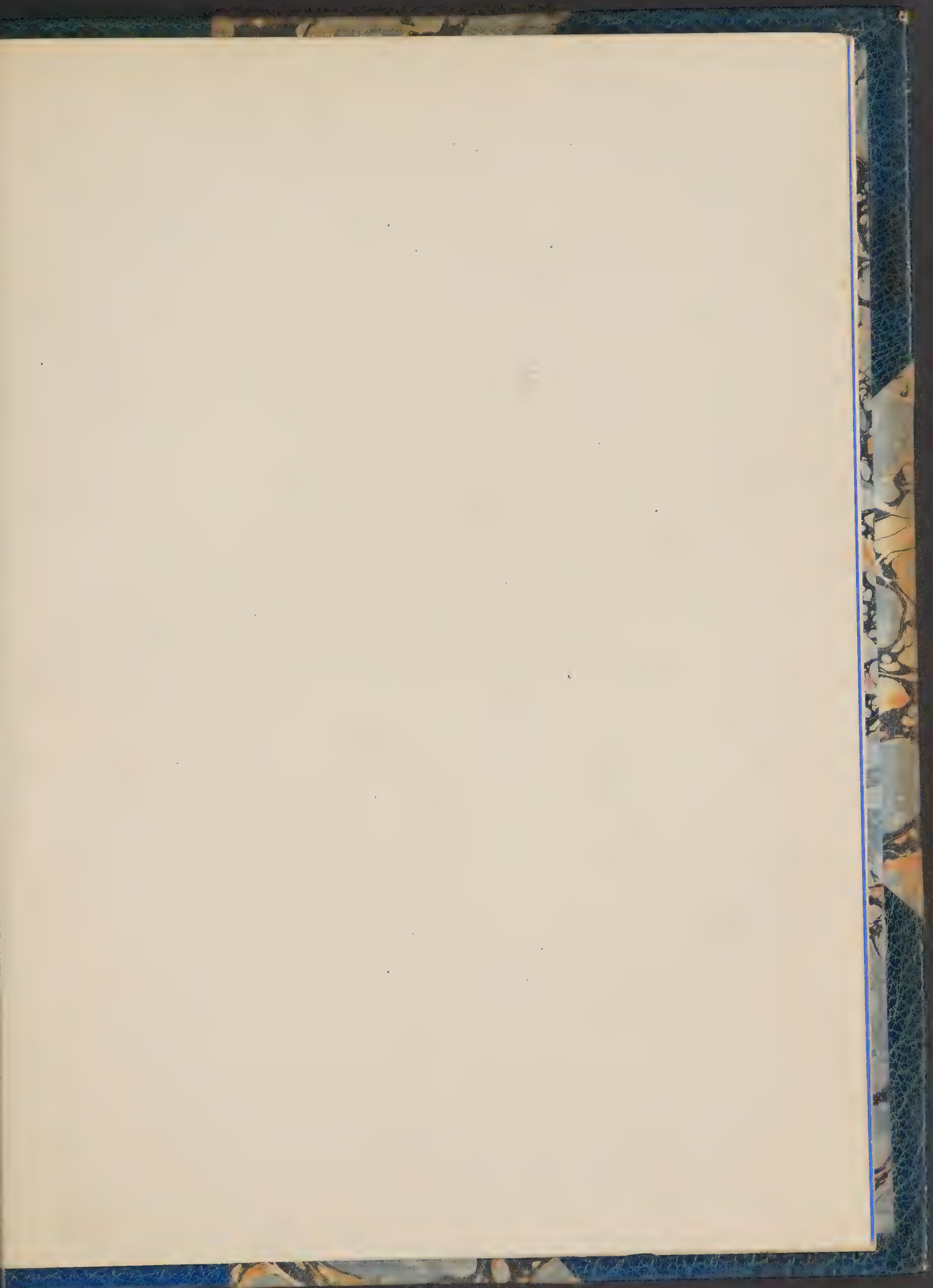




Whetstone's
Rock of Regard.

PART II.



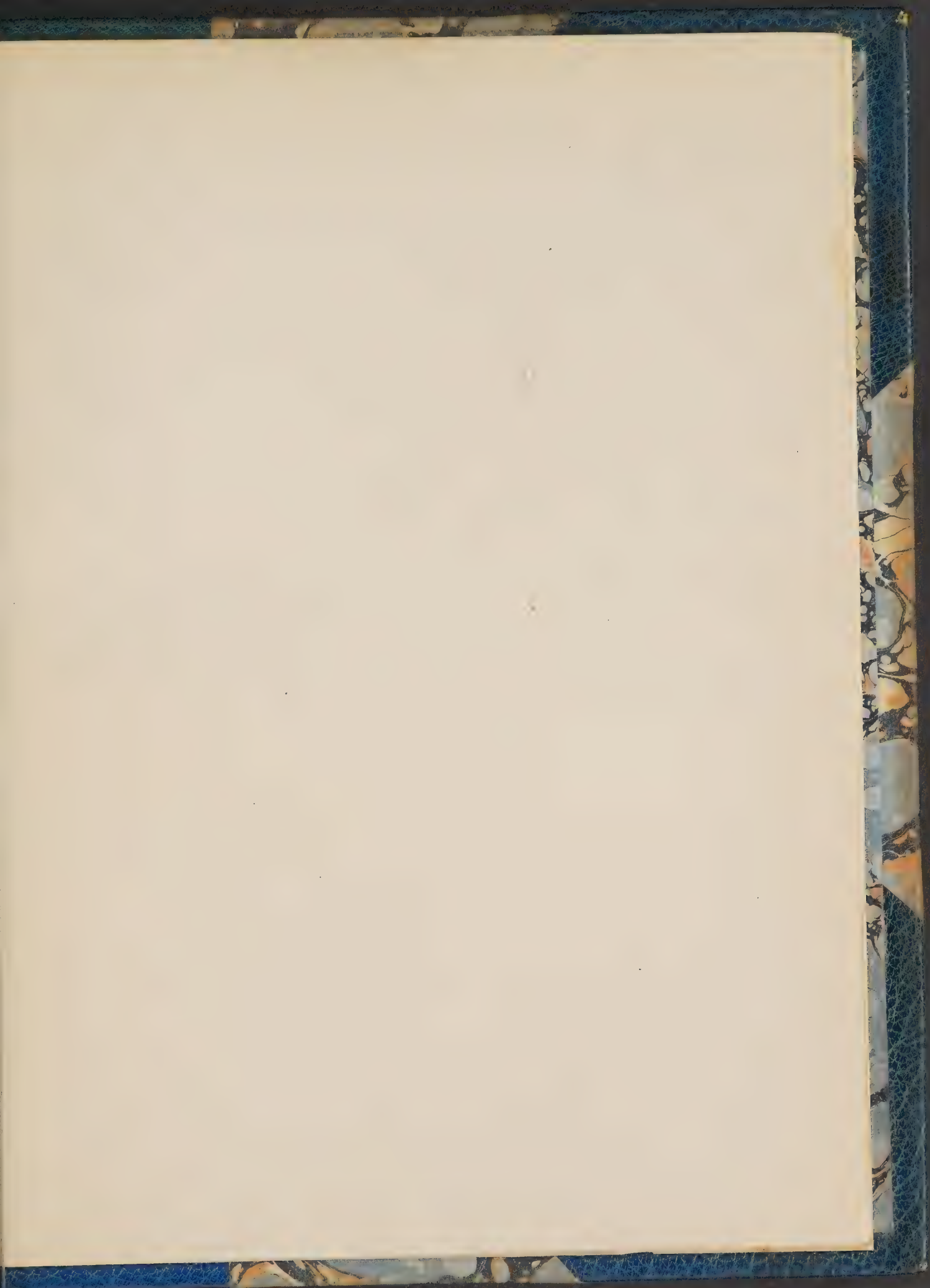




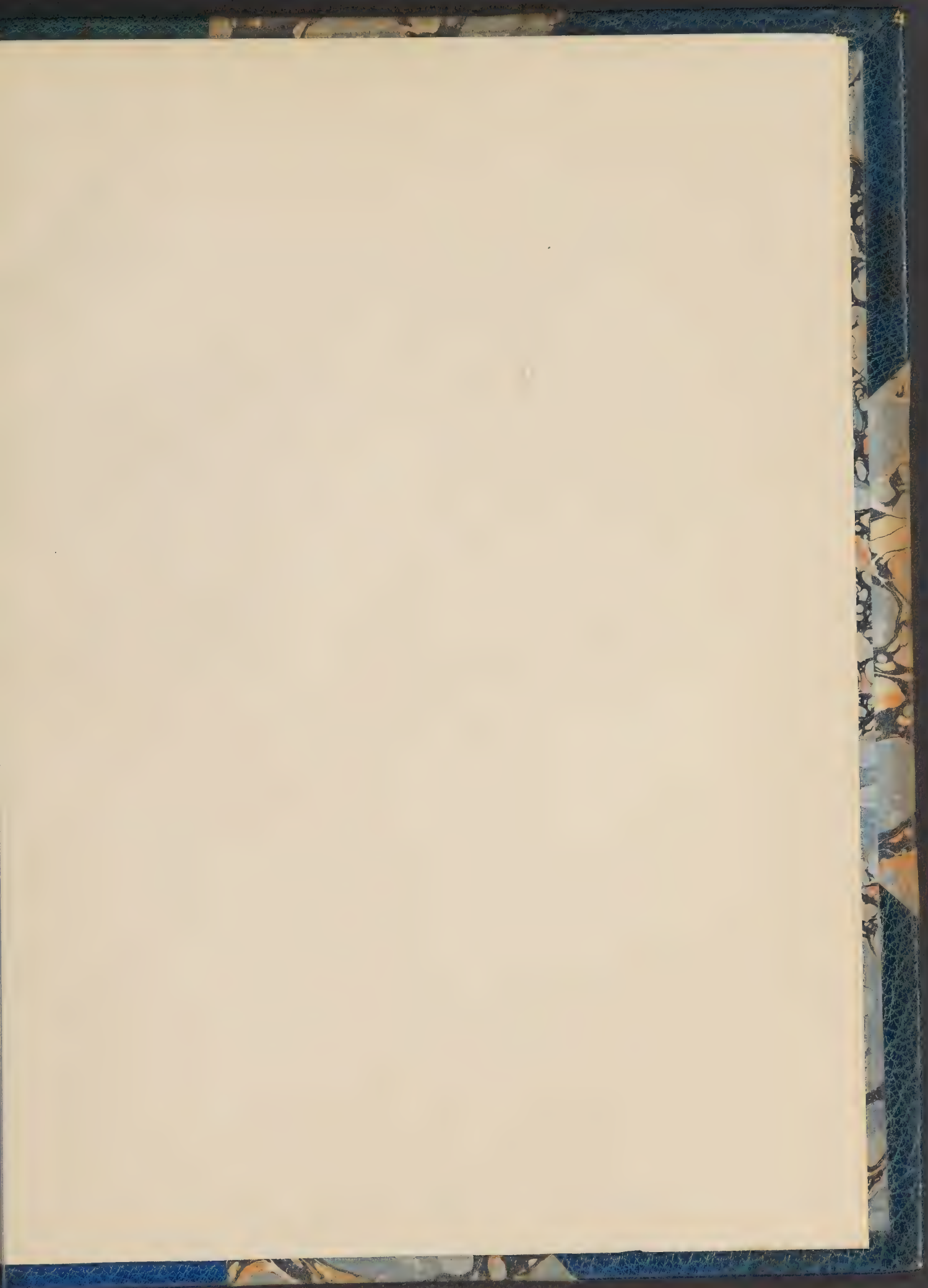
Whetstone's
Rock of Regard.

PART III.









BLUE

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